

The importance of being earnest: Felicity Jones looks at the work of the SWARTHMORE Educational Centre in Leeds, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year (page 10)

Another Country: MALCOLM BRADBURY and DAVID OGILVY, two men professionally concerned with the creation of images (if of rather different sorts) look at the image of higher education beyond the college walls and campus gates (pages 12 and 13)



"It isn't time for quitting," PAUL CORRIGAN explains why circumstances at the Polytechnic of North London have forced him to resign as head of applied social studies. Is PNL merely the future of further and higher education writ small? (page 14)

LIBERALISM has enjoyed as many premature and exaggerated obituaries as the novel. Both are more complex phenomena than is often understood. John Dunn reviews Anthony Arblaster's new study of the trajectory of a political philosophy, *The Rise and Decline of Liberalism* (page 15)

Home news	1-7
Letters to the editor	2
Don's Diary (Alan Davies, Edinburgh)	4
Party Line (Keith Hampson)	6
Union View (Nathie)	7
Overseas news	8-9
Articles	10-14
Column (Harold Silver)	14
Books	15-29
Psychology books	19-29
Noticeboard	24
Classified advertising	25-31
Information technology	1-viii

NEXT WEEK

Valerie Shaw on tales of Henry James
The Ivy League
New books in politics
Historians, crime and the Tolpuddle Martyrs

The great IT race

The great IT race is about to start. In the inside lane Sir Henry Chilver, vice-chancellor of Cranfield Institute of Technology, chairman of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, and the higher education establishment's favourite entrepreneur. In the outside lane Professor John Ashworth, vice-chancellor of Salford University, chairman of the National Computing Centre, and the same establishment's enfant terrible (well, not so terrible these days perhaps).

Behind Sir Henry are lined up Thorn-EMI, Racal, Plessey, STC, Ferranti, British Telecom and Cable and Wireless, and of course those shimmering images of that *urbanis in rure* of the south Midlands countryside. Behind Professor Ashworth are lined up IBM and GEC, and a redundant tower block recently made available by the University Grants Committee. Sir Henry may have an apparent edge. More companies are supporting the Cranfield initiative, although Salford with both IBM and GEC on its side may make up in political clout for what it lacks in sheer numbers. The Buckinghamshire green fields may be more attractive than industrial dereliction on the banks of the Irwell. But since 1981 Professor Ashworth has built his reputation *Avi-style* by being number two or number 44. So it is still an open race.

The prize of course is the successful foundation of an information technology institute which will produce the graduates in IT which Britain so badly needs. The Cranfield initiative is for an essentially private institution. The companies that put money into the venture are promised a return on their investment. But Sir Henry also hopes that public money will be available, probably through student grants and maybe through contracts. The Salford enterprise would depend more heavily on public funds. Professor Ashworth, like Sir Henry, expects that students at his IT institute would receive grants

and he also wants the Government to contribute to equipping the new institution.

To a Government obsessed by the need to cut public expenditure Cranfield's greater reliance on private money may seem to be an obvious asset. But in practice both institutes would probably make broadly equivalent demands on public expenditure. So there is probably little to choose between the two plans in terms of their likely burden on the Treasury. Salford may be able to produce its first graduates more quickly, although both consortia hope, rather optimistically, to enrol their first students next year. It has a building already. It is on the university campus. The Cranfield initiative on the other hand would depend on renting temporary accommodation in Milton Keynes. Its ability to feed off the existing university plant in the area, Cranfield itself and the Open University, would inevitably be more limited.

This may give the Ashworth initiative a crucial advantage over its apparently superior southern rival. Speed is important, because the case for establishing an IT institute depends on the conviction that Britain faces a catastrophic shortfall of graduates in computing, electronics, and adjacent disciplines and that the universities and polytechnics are too inflexible to adapt quickly enough to meet this short-term emergency. Both views of course can be questioned. Short-term emergencies have a habit of suddenly fading away when they lose their political sex appeal; skill shortages can be substantially mitigated by job substitution; and the universities and polytechnics' inflexibility is largely the result of Government action - as Salford's empty tower block is eloquent witness.

The Ashworth plan has another advantage. Just as its proposed IT institute would be able to get off the ground quickly by piggy-backing on

the university, so its proximity to the university would stop it becoming isolated from the academic and technological mainstream. Many doubt whether the idea of a separate IT institute is sensible in the first place. Locking a few hundred students in a tower block and training them in the ways of IBM or British Telecom is not a certain recipe for an exciting and innovative institution. It may instead produce a higher education that is narrow and prey to obsolescence and graduates with skills that are difficult to transfer and adapt.

In the middle of the Salford campus surrounded by other university departments these dangers could be avoided more easily than in a gleaming office building in downtown Milton Keynes. Its proximity to the rest of the university might be a particular asset because rather more emphasis is likely to be placed on continuing post-experience education and rather less on initial undergraduate courses in practice than the two consortia are now predicting - especially when the short-term emergency is overcome. And continuing education is above all a collaborative enterprise of good old red-blooded ingenuity, which calls on a wide range of skills and disciplines. Some of these might not be available in an isolationist IT institute cut off from the higher education mainstream.

At a voyeuristic level the Chilver-Ashworth race can just be enjoyed. British higher education has far too few examples of good old red-blooded competition. So the spectacle would be invigorating if nothing else. At a more serious level the contest between Salford and Cranfield for the privilege of establishing an IT institute highlights two divergent strategies, strategies that may be applied far from the field of information technology in the future: Salford offers an institute that is 'in but not of the university. Cranfield offers a special-purpose go-it-alone IT college.

Last chance for CLEA?

Even in the polytechnics there may be a sense of detachment about the future of the Council of Local Education Authorities because of the way in which its role within higher education has declined since the establishment of the National Advisory Body. Inevitably, CLEA is no longer the crucial forum it was two years ago for the discussion of policy questions affecting polytechnics and colleges, but its leading members remain in an equally influential position via the NAB committee and the consequences of a split would still be serious for the sector.

The unique, two-tier structure of the NAB will only work properly if the committee, as the supreme body, is acting in a unified way. If the metropolitan authorities and the county councils want their separate ways, the committee would become a sterile,

adversarial group, always assuming that the two sides were prepared to go on meeting together. The national dimension, which the NAB has brought to the public sector, might well be sacrificed to political considerations in a way which has not happened up to now.

Indeed, the record of the NAB committee has been a remarkable one, with agreement being reached on all but a handful of issues without recourse to a vote. Last week's meeting was a case in point, with local authority representatives agreeing despite their own differences to overrule the board to grant a further reprieve for a voluntary college (De La Salle), force a rethink on art and design courses and delay the establishment of a research fund. Such positive action would be unlikely if the two sides had broken off relations completely.

While the county councils and the metropolitan authorities are in different political hands, it is plainly inevitable that there will be differences over important policy issues. They do not come much more important for education authorities than 'pitching' local government's response to the ambitions of the Manpower Services Commission, which is rightly seen as a watershed for further education with direct implications for other parts of the service.

The severance of relations, entailing the breakup of CLEA, is bound to be the last card in any battle of wills in such a crucial area, but what influence would either association retain if the threat was carried out? It is to be hoped, both for further and higher education, that this week's indications that the dispute may be patched up prove correct.

The Treasury season

"My Government will continue to develop policies to raise educational standards. This brief statement, which in different circumstances might have difficult passing the scrutiny of the Advertising Standards Authority, was the only explicit statement covering higher education in the Queen's Speech on Tuesday. But a little earlier in the speech had come an oblique but ominous phrase - "Firm control of public expenditure will be maintained."

Sir Keith Joseph may propose that it is Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who disposes of the Exchequer, but decisions about the future of higher education are taken in the Treasury not the Department of Education and Science. It is an unpleasant but rigid truth.

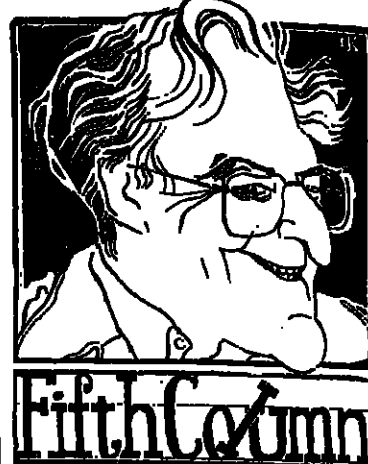
The autumn is the season when the public expenditure battle in Whitehall reaches its climax. It has become a perennial ritual. The spending departments make their bids; the Treasury

tries to pare them down; finally some "star chamber" of senior ministers or the Cabinet itself makes the final decisions. The whole process is accompanied by partisan leaking to the newspapers. The Secretary of State for this has persuaded the Treasury to accept his bid; the Secretary of State for that is fighting hard against strong Treasury resistance; and so on. A lot of it is synthetic posturing.

In this autumn's spate of leaks the Department of Education and Science has not been mentioned. The significance of this rather nebulous fact of omission is far from clear. Has Sir Keith not everything he wanted? Perhaps he did not ask for enough? Either way the prospect for higher education remains the same, manageable attrition. With this gloomy prospect the outlook for the polytechnics and colleges is probably a lighter shade of grey. For next year at least there will be the further

decline in the unit of resource in the non-university sector, while the University Grants Committee is still very pessimistic about the possibility of securing genuinely level funding for the universities.

On a broader national canvas the last three months may have seen a subtle shift in the balance of opinion within the Government. The few remaining "wets" continue their unsuccessful battle to "persuade" the monetarist majority to agree to some measure of conventional reflation. But a potentially more significant opposition, the coalition of modernizers that has dimly emerged in 1984, will have been weakened by the enforced absence of its embryonic leader Mr Norman Tebbit. So for the present, Mr Lawson, the Manpower Services Commission, is more firmly in the saddle. Mr Thatcher's mini-ice age looks set to continue. But the thaw may come.



I hear that some Russian sociologists are proposing to sort out our absurd calendar of 52 seven day weeks and 12 unequal months so as to make the calendar year more appropriate for an advanced industrial nation. Whether such a change is suitable for industry of just for those of us who find the year confusing at any time, it must be worth investigation in the hope that there is something to be gained from it.

What they are suggesting is a week of six days rather than seven, and a year consisting of 12 equal months of five of these new-style weeks. That of course still leaves a bit over, nature being unaccountably innumerate, so we would have to have a few odd days - five in a normal year and six in a leap year. Those odd days would be taken as an annual holiday.

The holiday idea is a good one because a week shorter by a day than we have already can only lead to the most fearful industrial unrest. We have been shortening our working hours for some time now and have no intention of relaxing the rules. So there will have to be a day's less work per week. Whatever they might do in Russia, it will not do for us to have a week of five working days and a Sunday; we need one of four working days and the great English weekend to which we have become accustomed. Among the advantages of that is the possibility, with a four day week, of solving the problem of unemployment.

But whatever the advantages in industry or business there are obvious advantages for the academic world. Four working days a week would certainly be better than five, even for those who only do four days a week at the public sector we stick to 10-week terms (which we will have to do to avoid confrontation with the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education) that will mean 10 weeks of four working days, or 40 working days a term and 120 a year.

And that at one stroke would bring us into line with the ancient universities of Oxford and Cambridge which at present have eight-week terms of five days which comes to 120 working days a year also. They might try to get their hours reduced proportionately but that would be going too far even for the respectful public so they would have to stick to their 120 weeks and divide them up however they like as long as they came out to the right total.

The more I think about it, the more attractive the proposition becomes. In a term of 40 days we could easily devote 10 days to meetings of faculties, departments, boards of study, senates, governors and so on, and another 10 days to interviews of all kinds. Sport requires one day a week which takes up another 10 days so we shouldn't have to teach for more than a few days at a time. And even that may be difficult once we have allocated enough time for reading, the library, deciphering the microfilm, and of course writing a few essays or pressing buttons in a laboratory. I am beginning to wonder how we have ever found time to give lectures and seminars.

However many classes they go on giving in Russia, their days in this country are numbered.

Patrick Nutgens

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'New blood' is casualty of spending plans

by John O'Leary

The "new blood" scheme for universities was an unexpected casualty of this week's announcement of the Government's future spending plans, which boosted science at the expense of student grants.

An extension of the scheme beyond the three years originally proposed was one of a number of bids for extra money included in the Department of Education and Science's proposals for the next spending round. All were dropped in the course of negotiations with the Treasury.

However, a different type of scheme may be devised to fill the gap, taking account of criticisms of the existing system. The coming Green Paper on higher education is expected to acknowledge the University Grants Committee's concern on the subject and to pave the way for a new initiative.

Science was the main beneficiary of Sir Keith Joseph's plans as Secretary of State for Education and Science. Increases in the university equipment grant to introduce a scheme to upgrade facilities in selected centres of research and in the science vote itself, put £2.4m into the area. Although £6m has been set aside for restructuring the research councils, some of this money too may be freed for research projects if restructuring has already progressed sufficiently.

Sir Keith said he had been convinced that there was an urgent need to increase the funds available for science both as a result of personal visits to institutions and by reports of top-proposed research projects which had to be rejected for lack of money. He added that the Government was still considering whether any more needed to be done to accommodate the Butcher committee's recommendations on the so-called switch of resources into science and technology.

He admitted that the money for the initiatives in science would come directly from savings on student support, including the abolition of the

minimum grant and the imposition of fees for those who will no longer receive grants. Hefty increases in the contributions of parents on high incomes brought the total savings to £39m next year.

The main rate of grant for students will rise by only 3 per cent for 1985/86, significantly less than the predicted rate of inflation, it was announced in the House of Commons on Wednesday by Mr Peter Brooke, under-secretary for higher education.

He also said that for parents with more than one child undergoing higher education there would be a ceiling of £4,000 in contributions.

The changes brought immediate criticism from a number of quarters, especially on the decision to apply the new regulations to students already on courses.

Angered at the lack of consultations, National Union of Students' president Mr Phil Woolas "demanded" a meeting with Sir Keith. He warned that if the meeting had not taken place by Monday students would begin to plan a campaign of direct action. The NUS has called for a 24 hour occupation of all universities, polytechnics and higher education colleges for next Wednesday.

Primo fears are that the reintroduction of tuition fees for home students after 23 years may be a precursor to differential fees between courses and institutions, and even full cost fees for home students dependent on the 4,000 or so students dependent on the minimum award not because of parental income but because parents cannot or will not sign the grants assessment.

Conservative students, who had asked ministers to freeze the student grant, were "delighted" with the announcement. Their vice chairman, Mr D.J. Saunders said: "We hope this will lead to loans by the back door."

Mr Giles Radice, Labour's education spokesman said: "The principle that every student gets a grant has been breached, while parents who have planned on the basis of a minimum grant have a right to feel aggrieved."

Ms Diana Warwick, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers was concerned about the changes in fees.

"We also deplore the decision to get rid of the 'new blood' programme, which is the only avenue for many universities for attracting new staff."

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the University Grants Committee said: "It is good news for the universities but bad news for students and the parents of students."

The £1,309m for the universities' recurrent grant for 1985/86 is £7m less than the provisional figure announced earlier this year. The 1984/85 grant of £1,262m compares with the provisional figure of £1,265m.

Leader, back page
Grants, research, page 3

Cash plans will disappoint polys

Only three English polytechnics will receive funding increases to match even the Government's cautious predictions of inflation in the coming year if the National Advisory Body goes ahead with its plans for research and acts to protect its most cost-effective institutions.

Three issues remain for discussion by the NAB board when it meets later this month to recommend detailed allocations from the £620m advanced further education pool for 1985/86. They are whether to keep back £2.5m for a new research fund, whether to raise minimum funding levels further and whether to accept recommendations by Her Majesty's Inspectorate to put more money into teacher training.

A NAB working group this week voted decisively against changing its funding system to accommodate the HMI proposals for teacher training, which would involve a cut of more than

10 per cent in the money allocated to mathematics and computing as well as requiring substantial cuts in paramedical subjects and in art and design.

Allocations produced on the assumption that the research fund is introduced and that the system is not changed to benefit teaching training, show a maximum of eight polytechnics exceeding the official estimate of 4.5 per cent inflation. If the minimum funding per student is increased to £1315, which the NAB secretariat considers a true reflection of the level intended to be the minimum last year, only North Staffordshire, Plymouth and Teesside polytechnics are expected to top 4.5 per cent. Changes in student numbers make comparisons impossible for Portsmouth and Hatfield polytechnics.

At least four polytechnics would receive an actual cut per student even before allowing for inflation, with

North East London and Central London polytechnics taking the maximum cut of 5 per cent.

The treatment of the major colleges varies widely, largely because of big shifts in student numbers. All but three of the 38 colleges and institutes in this category would benefit from a higher minimum funding level and one college (North Riding) stands to receive an increase of a third. Others, such as West London, Garnett and Avery Hill colleges, would be cut by more than 10 per cent.

The figures increase the likelihood of the NAB committee rejecting the board's proposal to establish a research fund in 1985/86. Although a distribution of the £2.5m to all sectors covered by the NAB would raise the unit of resource (funding per student) by only £7 in the polytechnic sector, a more selective approach could improve their position substantially.

Formula One way of raising cash

A recipe for successful fund-raising was concocted by these five students from Brighton Polytechnic, whose cake in the shape of a motor racing circuit raised £500 for charity last weekend.

The students, from left to right: Tommy Courrie, Sally Martin, Helen Beard, Kerry Land and James Templeton, accompanied the four foot long cake to the total of £27,600 raised in aid of the Great Ormond Street Hospital.

The cake-makers are all second year students on the polytechnic's hotel and catering course.



Six win the best of the social awards

Six universities have scooped more than half this year's 350 social science postgraduate awards available by open competition, leaving more than 50 other institutions to share the rest.

Winners in the Economic and Social Research Council's competition were Oxford (60 awards), London School of Economics (46), Cambridge (34), Warwick (26), Manchester (22) and Essex (20).

Overall 790 research and course awards were made. The emphasis on allowing more students to choose institutions for research this year followed a request from Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, for market forces come into play in the awards system.

Other winners in the open competition were Sussex (14), Edinburgh and Sheffield (13 each), Bath (12), Birmingham (11), the London Institute of Education (10), Durham (7), and York (6). At least four polytechnics - North East London, North Staffordshire, Sheffield and South Bank - won one each.

The ESRC has just accepted a report noting that the open competition worked satisfactorily, but it plans to monitor the distribution of awards between research and course work, and the concentration of awards which critics feared would lead to a sharp drop in morale among institutions well down the league table.

The council also discussed the large number of well qualified candidates it had to turn down, many now unable to pursue further research. More than half the first class degrees, most had at least an upper second. Altogether there were 2,000 applications for 350 awards. About 40 per cent of those successful were women.

Some balance is still provided by the 440 awards made by the council's six standing subject area committees. Political science, legal studies and international relations accounted for 87 awards (20 per cent of total), sociology and social administration (18 per cent), economics (12 per cent), education (15 per cent) and management and industrial relations (15 per cent). A full review is to be carried out after three years.

Scots opt to stay with UGC

The Scottish universities have rejected any transfer of their funding from the University Grants Committee - but they have repeated their call for a new UGC subcommittee to ensure that the Scottish interests are recognized.

The standing committee of the Scottish universities, a body established earlier this year comprising the eight principal and university court nominees, has sent a joint submission to the Scottish Tertiary Education Advisory Council, which is carrying out a review of higher education.

The paper says that a prime reason

for remaining with the UGC is research funding. The universities' most distinctive feature is research, and this should remain a major element of their funding.

The paper says the present funding system through the UGC and research councils has been reaffirmed as offering the best overall structure for a successful national research programme.

In our view, it would be retrograde, and potentially dangerous for the future research vitality of the Scottish

continued on page 3

Art college faces reshuffle to bid to impress critics

The Royal College of Art is planning to reduce all its three year postgraduate courses to two years, and to embark on a plan which will create eight new departments from mergers and closures.

The plan, which has plunged the college in almost round-the-clock meetings at every level, is being unveiled by the college's new rector, Mr Norman Stevens, former managing editor of the *Financial Times*, in a bid to silence lingering criticism from the

Department of Education and Science.

The college, which is directly funded by the DES, had its budget cut by 5 per cent above the norm last year following criticisms of its aims and operations by a DES visiting committee. Mr Peter Brooke, under-secretary for the higher education, warned there would be further 5 per cent cuts this year and said if changes were not made, a new report is being completed by the visiting committee and a final

decision on the 1985/86 budget is expected shortly. The rectorate is hoping its plan aimed at emphasizing industrial design and communications work will convince the DES things are improving.

The RCA is the only institution offering three-year postgraduate arts degrees. It is hoped to increase the throughput of students by reducing its degrees to two years in line with other institutions, and dispel doubts that there was not enough work to last for

Letters to the editor

Need for a National Space Agency

Sir, - I read with interest your science correspondent's report (*THES*, November 9) that a committee set up by the Science and Engineering Research Council was proposing the transfer of responsibility and funds for its support of remote sensing to the Natural Environment Research Council, following the recent justified criticisms of these two research councils by the House of Lords Select Committee and the Royal Society. I would like to make three points.

First, there are some, like myself, who are cynical by nature and who will see this as a move inspired by the very powerful lobby within the SERC representing the minority interest of astronomy that consumes, year in and year out, an enormous proportion of the SERC's radio, space and astronomy funds. For example, a suggestion, about a year ago, that a remote sensing satellite altimetry programme could be funded by switching a relatively modest proportion of funds away from astronomy was not favourably received; a proposal to set up a geophysical data base was examined in

some detail but also was not funded by the SERC.

Moreover it is not clear that the NERC has any of the relevant expertise involved in constructing space-based instruments, such as the along track scanning radiometer currently being developed by the SERC's Rutherford Appleton Laboratory for flight on the European Space Agency satellite ERS-1.

Second, remote sensing is only a technique, not an end in itself. While it is true that many of the problems that it can address come within the remit of the NERC and while it is true that the NERC is funding some remote sensing work, there are also some applications of remote sensing techniques, for example in civil engineering, offshore engineering and marine technology, which have been funded by the SERC and which clearly do not come within the remit of the NERC.

Other applications come within the remit of the Meteorological Office or even, I would suggest, within the remit

of the Agricultural and Food Research Council.

Third, a much more imaginative solution has been floating around for years and was suggested again a few months ago in the columns of *The Times* by Dr Peter Martin-Kaye of Huntingdon and endorsed, I understand, by the Remote Sensing Programme Board. This is the idea of a National Space Agency to have responsibility for all aspects of civilian activities related to space. Space agencies exist and work well in a very large number of other countries, both large (United States) and small (Austria, Sweden), developed (France) and developing (India).

In Britain our space-related activities are fragmented and less successful than they might be. It is not just a matter of money; there is a need for better organization and a reawakening of national pride as well.

ARTHUR P. CRACKNELL,
Professor of theoretical physics,
University of Dundee.

Sir, - In your last three issues the financial difficulties facing the Science and Engineering Research Council have been emphasized. It should be noted that in recent years the SERC has conscientiously devoted a significant amount of its funds to research which, while basic, is relevant to industrial or defence concerns. In the United States the National Science Foundation supports, and funds, that industry, the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense pick up the tab for such work. In the UK the SERC has meekly accepted (in spite of its original charter and the recommendations of Rothschild) the refusal of industry and ministries to make their appropriate contributions to basic research. If they did so the SERC's financial problems would be solved.

Yours faithfully,
B. R. COLES,
Chairman, Science Research Council
physics committee (1973-76), Professor
of solid state physics,
Imperial College of Science and
Technology.

Coping with the merger

Sir, - Could anyone imagine that the merger of two institutions, not only on opposite sides of the binary divide but also 50 miles apart would be without teething problems ("Storm clouds over the new look Ulster" *THES*, November 2). In the newly-formed University of Ulster, the faculty of science is somewhere near the fulcrum of such a merger not only having to overcome the problems of split-campus departments but also to bring together staff from quite different academic environments.

It has to be said that your article was very much wide of the mark in its accuracy of reporting events and was out of touch with the determination of virtually all academic staff on both campuses to make this university a success. It is a pity that your correspondent did not have the courtesy to contact any of the individuals of the working party, who, the named, before writing the article, she named, have learned that meetings with the vice chancellor, provost and dean of the faculty were requested, not demanded, were granted freely, not forced, were friendly and constructive. They were concerned with the development of courses in the new institution and nothing else.

The working party was formed by representatives constitutionally elected by faculty to serve on the most important university committees (not by the chemistry department) and it was in the business of making positive contributions to discussions of future policy. The faculty undoubtedly faces problems in the months ahead but it has the machinery and committees to deal with these internally, and frankly misinformed publicity is not helpful to those who are trying to address these problems.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. RICHARDSON,
M. McCABE,
K. R. A. BAILLIE,
M. J. BAILLIE,
University of Ulster.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. HAWKINS,
Reform University Law and
Educational Standards,
Bedford Avenue,
London WC1.

Britain at war

Sir, - This is not the place to draw up a full syllabus of errors of Britain and Germany at war, but Correll Barnett's letter (*THES*, November 2) calls for a response. My first proposition is in a total geopolitical environment that includes but transcends their technology. Their capacity to form alliances is part of that environment. Britain's capacity to do so has been superior to Germany's, and Mr Barnett's allusion to Lord Leese only confirms this: we had powerful friends denied to Germany.

My second proposition is that there is a large degree of congruence between a national education system and the evolution of its statesmen, their policies, and their pronouncements. From the fall of Bismarck till 1945 German statesmen proved themselves unequal to their responsibilities. The consequences are plain to see: the Russians are on the Elbe.

Technology has not prevented it, but statesmen might conceivably have done so. Mr Barnett reminds me of the story of the American who sat in a Volkswagen and exclaimed: "My God, did these guys lose the war?"

Finally, a personal point which I would not make if Mr Barnett had not scorned my language in *ad hominem* terms: though I know five languages intimately, I am not an arts buff. I am a professional economist and I know something of the British economy.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH URGIN,
21, The Haythorns,
Whitehall Road,
Woodford Green, Essex.

Distance learning

Sir, - Open University academics do it at a distance.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BARNES,
School of Education,
Open University.

£15m boost for inventors

A new package of proposals backed by up to £15m to develop commercially viable ideas in higher education institutions has just been announced by the British Technology Group.

The package includes the creation of Campus Investments, a specialist agency to pump funds into academic spin-off and start-up companies, and new royalty arrangements to enhance the immediate returns going to successful academic inventors.

The package marks the end of three years of debate within the BTG over its role as the agency responsible for patenting, protecting, and exploiting technology transfer from universities and other public bodies to commercial and industrial enterprises.

The most important innovations are the BTG's willingness to back consultancy work and potentially viable ideas even in their early stages, and its keenness to extend its stake in

technology transfer from the current level of about £5m to its new annual limit of £15m.

The BTG readily acknowledges that in the past there have been insufficient ideas with sound commercial possibilities. It is now willing to offer up to 50 per cent backing for university liaison companies, consultancy work and projects to support contract research, though it will expect to recover its investments from the revenues generated.

On royalties the BTG will give the whole of the first £5,000 of the gross licence income from a new product to the institution or inventor, falling to 20 per cent of the cumulative income until the group has recovered its patent, legal, and external costs, after which further income would be shared equally between the institution and the BTG.

The group has also set up an eight-

man liaison team to seek out new commercial opportunities by visiting UK laboratories, and plans regular portfolio reviews to keep institutions fully informed of progress in exploiting their ideas.

The group also plans to make the leaders of projects it is funding BTG research fellows, and to continue its academic enterprise competition for researchers involved in setting up a new company to exploit their findings. A new database to match new ideas with possible industrial users is also being created. There is still no date for when the BTG is to lose its right of first refusal for potential commercial ideas from the public sector.

An example of BTG funding has come with last week's announcement of a £190,000 investment in a new polymers company at Strathclyde University which comes on top of support for the early research.

Research cuts begin to bite hard

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

Redundancies are beginning to bite in the Agriculture and Food Research Council's institutes as it moves to full implementation of the restructuring to form a new corporate plan.

Sir Ralph Riley, the council's secretary, describes 1983/84 as a year of unprecedented difficulty for the AFRC in the council's new annual report, published this week. The consequences of the corporate plan led to reshape agriculture research as now being felt in many of its laboratories.

For example, around 100 posts will be lost by next April with the closure of the Letcombe Laboratory in Oxfordshire, which has just published its own annual report. The AFRC plan calls for work on arable crop production, and soils and crop nutrition to be concentrated at the Rothamsted Experimental Station in Harpenden.

Letcombe will then close to save money in this area, and only 30 of the full complement of 130 posts will be transferred to other AFRC establishments, either to Rothamsted or to the Long Ashton Research Station. Half of the staff in post at Letcombe at the beginning of this year have already left, but there will still be redundancies among some of the remainder when the April deadline arrives.

At the Plant Breeding Institute in Cambridge, staff face redundancies to meet a £400,000 cut in the laboratory's budget for next year. The 250-strong complement at the institute has already shrunk by 14 and may have to be cut by a further 20 posts. Scientists working at the Institute of Animal Physiology at Babraham, near Cambridge, also expect to be notified of such redundancies in the next two weeks. A £200,000 budget shortfall at Babraham is expected to mean at least 12 new jobs lost.

The council is now set on making all the changes outlined in the corporate plan, after a long fight in the Advisory Board for the Research Councils to secure the budget cuts which have brought on institute closures.

Sir Ralph Riley writes in the new report that structural change within research is needed to reflect new programme changes and improve efficiency. However, he also notes that the council's total allocation of about £1,000m is small compared to the total national research budget. The benefits from this expenditure are far more tangible than in other, more expensive, aspects of scientific research, an oblique reference to dis- missions now in hand on Britain's contribution to more esoteric areas.

Glasgow students twin with striking mine

Glasgow University's students representative council has twin with the Colliery Colliery strike committee in a letter to the miners' union.

The move follows an extraordinary general meeting at which students voted overwhelmingly to support strike action, and, on advice from the National Union of Mineworkers, to support a particular approach.

The students' miners support committee has already raised £500 over 10



Leicester Polytechnic has been placed firmly in the limelight in French opera circles following wide acclaim for a new opera composed by Mr Gavin Bryars (left), its head of music. A jazz bassist, Mr Bryars has seen his new work receive an enthusiastic reception in Lyons, and it now moves to the Theatre des Champs Elysees in Paris next week. The opera, *Medea*, is sung partly in Greek and partly in French, and is based on the Euripides original.

Apartheid row at Cambridge

Opposition is mounting among Cambridge students against the planned visit of the South African ambassador to speak in a debate later this month at the Cambridge University Society.

The university's student union, representing 11,500 students, has already passed a motion condemning the invitation to Dr Denis Worrall, and anti-apartheid and left-wing groups are planning an alternative forum coinciding with the debate, on November 26, to discuss apartheid.

Student union officers were also involved in a final attempt this week to try to persuade the union society to withdraw the invitation to Dr Worrall.

This is the third year running that the South African ambassador has been asked to speak at a union debate. Last year there were running battles between police and student and trade union protesters.

The Cambridge and District Trades Council has also condemned Dr Worrall's visit and donated £20 towards the cost of the alternative forum, which is to feature Mr David Kitson, detained for opposing apartheid.

The invitation has been defended by Ms Laura Chapman Jury, president of the union society, who believes the best way to tackle the views of Dr Worrall is to challenge him in debate.

Scottish universities opt to stay with UGC

continued from front page

universities if research funding were devolved to a sector even of the size of Scotland.

The recent trend has been for the European and international element in both research programmes and the training and funding of postgraduates to become more important, and it would be detrimental to the Scottish universities to be "eased out of this international ambit".

The Scottish Office has been able to fund certain programmes of particular

Principals' pay 'should go straight to the top'

by Olga Wotjas
Scottish Correspondent

The principals and vice principals of Scotland's 14 central institutions want to negotiate their salaries and conditions of service separately from other staff on the grounds that they are comparable with managing directors in industry.

The Committee of Principals and Directors of the Scottish Central Institutions has told the Secretary of State for Scotland that their salaries should be negotiated directly with the Scottish Education Department or the Top Salaries Review Body, and their conditions of service should be negotiated directly with their governing bodies.

The principals have been unhappy since their inclusion in a national negotiating body for Scotland's tertiary sector, set up three years ago. Until then, they were the only group in the sector to negotiate their salaries with the SED and their conditions of service with their governors.

According to the committee, the principals' managerial responsibility makes it appropriate for them to be seen as employees of their governing bodies, and they suggest their position may be undermined by negotiating in the same form as their staff.

The SED is now to ask governors of both the central institutions and the colleges of education for their views. The college of education principals, who have always negotiated alongside other academic staff, have made no representations, but the SED argues that their posts are so similar that any arrangements should apply to both sectors.

However, the SED has made it clear that it sees no case for transferring negotiations for vice principals in either sector.

Mr Peter McNaught, principal of Craigie College of Education and chairman of the committee of principals, said the matter would be considered both by principals and boards of governors next Thursday.

Mr Jack Dainoff, secretary of the Association of Lecturers in Scottish Central Institutions said it saw no cause for the principals being excluded from the negotiating system.

"There is virtue in the implication of 'principal' being first among equals, and we do not accept that members of staff are equivalent to employees in industry," he said.

Mr George Livingston, chairman of the Association of Lecturers in Colleges in Education in Scotland, said he thoroughly disapproved of the proposals, and added that it was very surprising that the SED had taken them up.

Labour backs adult transfer

A new blow has been dealt to hopes of retaining Birmingham's adult education service within the city council's education department.

The council's controlling Labour group has now come out in favour of the move, which will entail the transfer of responsibility for adult education to the council's leisure services department.

A final decision on the fate of the adult education service will now rest with the city council, which meets to debate the issue next month.

Despite the setback, teachers from within the service were determined to step up their campaign against the

proposal this week, and were awaiting the outcome of a meeting yesterday between union representatives and members of the council's performance review committee, which suggested the transfer.

Members of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education are pursuing the issue with the city council through the recognised disputes procedure.

Last week about 30 members of the adult education service held a protest meeting outside the city council offices, halting traffic to bring attention to their demands.



Elitist view

Sir, - "He will hate this profile," wrote Peter Scott in his account of the career of Richard Hoggart (*THES*, November 2) and the value of the article was somewhat marred by the consistently patronizing approach to Hoggart's work in adult education. I am thinking in particular of the assumption behind the reference to his becoming "a mainstream university teacher having come in from the extramural cold" and to the association of the adjectives in the sentence: "Some damn his books because they regard them as an abiding sense non-academic, amateur, extramural, certainly not the products of professional scholarship."

There follows a disclaimer which is equally insulting: a classic case of damning with faint praise "for adjacent qualities, a personal engagement that is difficult to reconcile with antiseptic academic inquiry and a quasi-literary imagination".

Sheltering behind his unspecified authority: "some" and "others" Peter Scott contrives to imply that adult/extramural education is an envious and unscholarly fellow of mainstream university teaching and on behalf of those who, like myself, are engaged in it, I strongly object.

Yours faithfully,
JULIET GORDON,
Tutor in literature,
Department of adult education,
Southampton University.

Letters for publication should arrive by Tuesday morning. They should be as short as possible and written on one side of the paper. The editor reserves the right to cut or amend them if necessary.

PhD ruling

Sir, - With reference to "Privy Council crushes PhD hopes" (*THES*, November 2), I am amazed by their lordships' statement that "it would not be proper [for them] to express a view on the choice of examiner save where the examiners were plainly not qualified for their task". This is to impose on the petitioner a standard of proof which is only appropriate in criminal proceedings. The appropriate question for their lordships to ask is whether on the balance of probabilities the botanist and biochemist were suitable to examine a thesis on comparative zoology. This is the appropriate test in civil proceedings.

Are their lordships suggesting that London University was accused of a criminal offence? Perhaps the provision of an unfair examination should be punishable by the criminal law because it has such grave repercussions for the student concerned, but I was not aware that this was yet the law of the land.

Further details

Sir, - In the issue of *The THES* for October 19 you kindly published an article by ourselves on the Economic and Social Research Council funded British Political Participation Study currently being conducted in the department of government at the University of Manchester. A fuller article in *Government and Opposition*, Vol 19, No 1, winter 1984, will provide

Salary erosion

Sir, - In his article "Unions seek talks on salary erosion" (*THES*, November 9) David Jobbins may have been the victim of editorial compression. The Association of Polytechnic Teachers does not merely claim that staff teaching advanced work in the public sector have lost out by about 17 per cent since 1970; what it does claim is that the average rise for a Lecturer (of whom there are very few

in advanced further education) is much greater than the average rise for senior and principle lecturers since then. Simply to bring these into line would require an increase of about 17 per cent for the latter group, but even that would not give the parity so urgently needed by the higher education service.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. SIMMONS,
Hon chairman,
Association of Polytechnic Teachers salaries panel.

Poly prejudice

Sir, - I have followed the correspondence on the subject of the ignorance and misunderstanding which exists in relation to the polytechnics. Since I feel myself an student at a polytechnic I feel I should present at least one polytechnic student's viewpoint.

Although somewhat surprised at the extent of ignorance on polytechnics revealed in the recent MORI poll I must admit that regrettably I was not surprised to learn of the general misunderstanding which exists over polytechnics. For as a polytechnic student one is constantly made aware of the supposed inferiority of the polytechnic student in comparison to the illustrious university counterpart, whether it be through government

those interested in the subject with further details about the theories of participation which we hope to examine and the methodological choices we have been making.

Yours truly,
GERAINT PARRY,
GEORGE MOYSEY,
Editorial board,
Government and Opposition,
Department of government,
University of Manchester.

and discrimination has a demoralizing effect on students and staff at polytechnics who often suffer from an academic inferiority complex. With this evidence now available there is need for government and academics to tackle this problem with positive action. Middlesex have taken a bold lead in attempting to find some solution, but a more general agreement on how to solve the problem is required.

If society is to reap the full benefit from polytechnics then the undoubted ignorance which exists must be removed. However, until this occurs their full potential can never be realized and the polytechnic "myths" will remain with us.

COLIN R. RAINEY,
Second year student,
BA communication studies,
Sheffield City Polytechnic.

ance and discrimination has a demoralizing effect on students and staff at polytechnics who often suffer from an academic inferiority complex. With this evidence now available there is need for government and academics to tackle this problem with positive action. Middlesex have taken a bold lead in attempting to find some solution, but a more general agreement on how to solve the problem is required.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. FLOOD,
University of Aston.



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DON'S DIARY

SUNDAY

Beginning to get restive as next week sees the start of the university's adult education programme. As a freelance I am supposedly immune from pre-enrolment panic exacerbated this year by more stringent than ever cuts and new Department of Education and Science regulations but find the infection can be easily transmitted by telephone. Sort through contracts in an attempt to calm nerves but end up wondering whether they won't all be cancelled and go somewhat disconsolately to bed.

MONDAY

My last free day before teaching starts. Put finishing touches to the three lectures I shall give this week and try to summon up the energy to do some preparation for the later classes which I hope will materialize something of a struggle between faith and reason.

Arrange to see two full-time colleagues on their way back from a preliminary meeting of a Return to Study course on which I shall be teaching later in the year if it takes off. A combined course in literature and social studies with the theme of revolution and social change, it offers the challenge of a completely new type of teaching.

Not to be for the moment however. Hear at 9pm that the course has been cancelled for lack of support. Basingstoke - no time to prepare, evidently for revolution and social change.

TUESDAY

Get up at the unfamiliar hour of 7am to sort out the family and leave in time to catch the bus and train (the penalty of not being able to drive) to Winchester to give my first class of the new session. Adrenaline starts pumping and spirits rise as scrape toast, the pigstails and issue lunch money, checking and double checking arrangements with the children until they are quite exasperated. "Anyone of this you were going away for a month, not just out for the day!" but can't help it.

Check contents of brief case in equally obsessive fashion and have to run for bus. Feel family responsibilities receding pleasantly as join the gainfully employed and speed in the train towards Winchester. Suspect middle child may have forgotten gym kit and youngest is wearing odd socks and feel exhilarated by being able to do absolutely nothing about it.

The Winchester class has changed its meeting hall but I have precise directions to the new one and decide that I have time for a coffee before going in search of it. Set out again, and find right road but no sign of any meeting hall. Still have plenty of time and enjoy walking round the back of the Guildhall and fine views of the cathedral in the sun. Beginning to get slightly concerned when meet one of last year's students and we walk there together.

Fortune would appear to have smiled and continues to do so for the rest of the morning. Sounds of animated chat and a smell of coffee greet us. A most satisfactory blend of familiar and new faces, with the splendid ladies of the Workers' Educational Association registering students and collecting fees. Only problem may be the size of the class - 35 with a possibility of more - which may inhibit discussion. If numbers reach 40 we ought really to divide into two groups which will cause administrative headaches. Some problems, however, it is pleasant to have.

Lecture on a brief history of the novel prior to a detailed study of George Eliot and Henry James - appears to be well received. At coffee introduce myself to newcomers, among them a learned French lady who finds close parallels between the rise of realism in French and English fiction and agrees with what I've said. Relief! Have lunch with a friend and leave for home in high spirits.

WEDNESDAY

Weather changes from sunshine to cold rain and wind for a long walk to the stop where I catch the bus to Andover. On arrival all is far from well. A minimum of 12 students is necessary for a class to continue. This morning there are six. It is extremely unlikely that the numbers can be made up, but the students are so keen to continue and so determined to double their numbers that, against my better judgment, I agree to float the regulations and keep the class open for one more week.

There is considerable ill-feeling on the part of the students at what they consider to be negligent treatment by the university which, they claim, has failed to provide adequate publicity for their course. They also dislike their room in the magnificent futuristic edifice of Cricklade College, declaring that it is noisy (which it is) and airless.

Swaying gently in the attempt to maintain perfect balance in my position on the fence I do my best to soothe and comfort but cannot help saying to myself, paraphrasing Lady Bracknell, that the room is immaterial. Have lunch by myself and go home distinctly depressed.

THURSDAY

Today the hurly-burly of peripatetic lecturing is exchanged for the cloistered calm (?) of the university where I go to use the library and see the organizing tutor who goes into orbit on hearing about Andover. "You should have closed it!" "I know, I know, I will next week. Unless there's a miracle." The organizing tutor clearly thinks that the age of miracles is past. We have a lugubrious lunch discussing the other classes which they have closed.

FRIDAY

Basingstoke, my local town, lies adult-educationally halfway between Andover and Winchester. Last year I had 21 students. Today there are 16, the shortfall almost entirely accounted for by the fact that an additional course is being started there in January - a poetry course which some students evidently prefer to the rigours of the novel since 1950.

Economically we may be less pleasing to the authorities, but this is an excellent size for an adult education class as there is a real opportunity for discussion with a chance for even the diffident to make themselves heard. Here are mostly familiar faces (three new recruits) in a familiar setting but we have Iris Murdoch, William Golding and recent Booker prize winners to keep us alert. Basingstoke is not a place of beauty but here I feel welcome and secure and tempted to conclude that there's no place like home.

SATURDAY

Back in the hurly-burly of family life supervising the changing of the children's library books and obeying a crazy impulse to inquire about the adult education programme, as though I'm a potential consumer, rather in the spirit of those neurotic authors who moan in bookshops to see if they're in stock. Information is readily forthcoming. If the light of literature goes out in Basingstoke, it will clearly be no one's fault but my own.

Juliet Gordon

The author is a part-time tutor in literature in the department of adult education at Southampton University.

Job prospects look better

by David Jobbins

Job prospects for polytechnic graduates are continuing to brighten, according to a survey carried out by the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics.

More than half last year's graduates found permanent employment in the UK, compared with 46.4 per cent in 1982 and 44.7 per cent in 1981.

The improving trend continued despite the 10 per cent increase in the output of graduates in 1983 compared with the previous year, showing that a higher proportion of polytechnic students are finding jobs in a still tough employment market.

Unemployment among graduates fell by more than one per cent, from 15.7 per cent to 14.8 per cent, and the survey shows an increase in graduates entering careers in buying, marketing and selling, management services, engineering, research, design and development, and education.

Figures for polytechnic Postgraduate Certificate in Education students are shown for the first time and 95 per cent entered teaching and lecturing.

Highest permanent UK employment rates are 83 per cent for surveying and 81 per cent for management science. The picture for surveying graduates is of a steady rise from 77 per cent in 1981 and 82 per cent the following year. But management science shows a spectacular return to 1981 levels after a dip to 76 per cent in 1982, a hiccup caused by the virtual halt to civil service recruitment that year.

Catering and institutional management recruitment dropped sharply, from a peak of 83 per cent in 1982 to 70 per cent the following year.

Traditionally poorly recruiting subject areas show some improvements. Sociology for example is up to 42 per cent from 34 per cent in the previous

two years while the proportion going on to further training education fell from 25 to 20 per cent.

Employment prospects for students leaving polytechnics with higher diplomas also rose - to 45.1 per cent in 1983 compared with 41.6 in 1982 and 36.9 in 1981. Unemployment also fell, from 12.2 to 11.5 per cent.

Catering and institutional management enjoyed the highest success rate, with 72 per cent finding jobs.

The figures show that the output of first degree students has almost doubled since 1976, with women now constituting more than 40 per cent of the total (12.2 per cent up on 1982) against only 29 per cent in 1976.

First Destinations of Polytechnic Students Qualifying in 1983, available from the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, 309 Regent Street, London W1, £7.50 post free.

YTS expansion decision delayed

by Patricia Santinelli

The Government drew back this week from making a decision about extending next year's Youth Training Scheme to all unemployed 17-year-old school-leavers.

But Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, has announced that YTS will be open to 18-year-olds who for a number of reasons such as pregnancy, custodial sentences and language problems either lost the chance of a place or had to remain in education.

The Manpower Services Commission's Youth Training Board recommended an extension of the scheme to 17-year-olds for 1985/86 after a review of YTS.

The Department of Employment says the matter is still under review although the recommendations have been with ministers since July. Other YTB recommendations which have still not been acted upon are that 18-year-old school and college leavers starting long periods of training should be eligible, and that there should be greater flexibility over the



Mr King: stalling at 18s

normal length of stay on YTS - currently one year.

The review made clear that unless there were changes in the eligibility rules, there would be only 395,000 entrants to YTS in 1985/86, compared with some 407,000 places on offer in 1984/85.

Expanding the scheme to new groups would mean a total of 420 - 430,000 entrants.

The urgency of a decision is highlighted by unpublished papers which went to the Youth Training Board yesterday. They show that the total number of entrants on YTS at November 2 was only 290,000, or a 63 per cent rate of occupancy. Unless there is a massive entry after Christmas, the scheme looks like heading for a short-fall for a second year.

These latest figures are also likely to revive the controversy over Mode B provision (places provided by voluntary agencies, workshops and colleges). For although the YTS is now strongly angled towards Mode A provision (employer-based places) overall it has taken only 62 per cent of the intake, while Mode B accounts for 61 per cent and Mode C for 69 per cent.

The Government has announced a £5m pilot scheme for training losses aimed at over 21-year-olds who fall outside present training provision or who cannot afford special training for themselves.

AUT raises contract grievances

Union leaders are to raise problems faced by university contract research staff when they meet vice chancellors today.

The Association of University Teachers had become increasingly irritated at delays in convening a tripartite meeting involving the union, the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals and the research councils.

The AUT wants to explore with the CVCP today how progress can be made at national level to improve contract researchers' pay, conditions and career prospects.

The AUT's contract research staff annual meeting last week raised proposals for a long-term strategy to improve the situation and backed a call from its committee for demonstrative action unless talks at national level begin within a reasonable period.

The policy document will go to the AUT's winter council in York next month, where it is widely expected to be approved.

Mr Brian Salter, chair of the committee, said that although an earlier version of the document had been approved by an executive committee by only one vote, the divisions within the association over research staff policy were in the past.

Delegates to the meeting took the view that the consultations over the shape of the universities in the 1990s and concern over the erosion of Britain's research base provided a unique opportunity for implementing a "joint" career structure.

There are about 11,000 contract research staff in the universities.

Cancer research

Birmingham University opened a new £250,000 cancer research centre last week, sponsored by the Cancer Research Campaign.

Research councils to review technology centre funds

The Technical Change Centre, the independent institute set up in 1981 to promote research on technology and the economy, is under review by the two research councils asked to fund it for a second five-year term.

The Science and Engineering and Economic and Social Research Councils have each appointed five members to a review group. The centre was set up for a notional 10 years, with backing guaranteed for the first five by the two councils and the Leverhulme Trust.

Continued funding from the councils, which now contribute around £100,000 a year each, depends on the outcome of the review, and subsequent ministerial approval. The Leverhulme Trust is not expected to contribute after 1985/86.

The councils are likely to renew their backing for the centre, which has heavyweight backing from a board of governors including Sir Geoffrey Allen, former chairman of the SERC, Sir Rex Richards, Lord Swann and Sir Alistair Pilkington. But the review group will be looking closely at the sectors of research the TCC develops from its wide portfolio in industrial research and development studies,

information technology policy, university-industry relations and studies of research council initiatives.

Some officials of both councils, and in the Department of Trade and Industry, feel the centre has made less impact than its original backers hoped, and needs to work to develop a higher public profile in a few specific areas.

The ESRC nominees on the review group are: Professor Griffith Edwards, a member of the council, Professor Alan Mercer, chairman of the ESRC's industry and employment committee, Mr Roger Kendrick, managing director of British Underwater Engineering, Professor Andrew Pettigrew, and Mrs Cathy Cunningham, deputy secretary of the council.

They will be joined from the SERC side by Dr Ashley Catterall, council secretary, Dr Geoffrey Findlay from the SERC central office, Dr Colin Quinn of Shell research, Dr Peter Wakely, an independent consultant and Professor Denis Towill of UWIST. The group will choose a chairman from among their number, and report early in the new year.

Compromise on MSC switch

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities last week bowed to the inevitable and agreed to compromise over the transfer of a large chunk of further education to the Manpower Services Commission.

The association's education committee approved a temporary deal under which each local education authority will get back from the MSC the sum that has been removed from its 1985/86 rate support grant in anticipation of the takeover.

But the committee reiterated its "total opposition" to the Government's plan to switch control of a quarter of work-related non-advanced courses and insisted on seeing the

details of a proposed joint review group on arrangements for subsequent years before agreeing to take part. The deal effectively delays the changes for a year.

The metropolitan education authorities have expressed unanimous opposition to the Government's new system of travel grants for students.

At their annual meeting in Manchester at the weekend, both Conservative and Labour members voted for a motion deploring the Government's decision to change from a system based on individual claims to a flat-rate allowance and demanding a return to the old arrangements.

Science research gets extra boost

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

The extra money announced for universities, as well as an unexpectedly large boost for science, will go towards strengthening research.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science said in the House of Commons on Monday that £10m would be added to the £90m university equipment grant, to be used for a University Grants Committee scheme to improve selected research centres.

Much of the £14m added to the science is likely to find its way into university research grants.

The research councils' science vote for 1985/86 is increased from £573m to £587m, with £6m earmarked for restructuring costs. The remaining £8m will be allocated to new priorities selected by the Advisory Board for the Research Councils.

But more than this £8m is effectively being made available because the advisory board has already decided to raise £3.5m for restructuring in the Agriculture and Food and Natural Environment research councils through a levy on the budgets of the Science and Engineering and Medical research councils. This measure, bitterly contested by the contributing councils, is now unnecessary.



"WE HAD TO SELL THE ROLLER TO PAY FOR NIGEL THROUGH UNIVERSITY."

Apart from restoration of the levy, the MRC and the SERC can expect to receive most of the additional £8m, with the lion's share going to the SERC. The council will argue that it has accumulated a further £2m short-fall in international subscription costs as the pound's position on currency markets weakened this year. This is on top of £8m allocated to the council last year.

The SERC also needs money for its new initiative in application of computers to manufacturing engineering, which has already begun. And all the councils have identified unfunded "alpha" grants for university research.

Parents take on student burden

by David Jobbins

By reintroducing payment of tuition fees for some home students with richer parents, ministers are continuing a trend to shift the burden from the state to parents, and from the less-well-off to the better-off.

Ministers have decided to move on three fronts for the 1985/86 academic year. First they have abolished the minimum award paid to all home students irrespective of parental income. This was halved to £205 this year and its abolition, which affects between 40,000 and 50,000 students, will remove £8m from the student support system.

The remainder of the £39m excised from the student support budget is made up by steepening the sliding scale for parental contributions, and by introducing tuition fees for parents with a residual income above £18,000.

It is the second year in succession that the rates have been changed to hit the better off. In 1983/84 there were three bands starting with a contribution of £1 in every seven for the lowest, £1 in every eight for the intermediate and £1 in every 13 for the higher earners. For the current academic year this was simplified, with a rate of £1 in every seven below a residual income of £9,700 in every six above.

As a leading priority, a concern shared on the advisory board.

The new allocation means that the science budget has been boosted by £21m over the last two years, a considerable achievement for the ABR in the current public expenditure climate.

However, the extra money is unlikely to slow down the SERC's moves toward greater selectivity, or take the heat out of the current inquiry into British membership of the CERN laboratory in Geneva. The councils still feel a need to free larger sums of money for redeployment in support of new initiatives.

The advisory council's total bids in last year's public expenditure round, the sum of their selection from research council wants, came to £22m for 1984/85, £33m for 1985/86 and £34m for 1986/87. And the gap between the research councils' aspirations and the science vote increase will be increased by under-indexation of salary costs and pension payments.

The DES estimate of the budget increases assumes salary rises of three per cent a year, but academic salaries are rising more steeply. This costs the research councils several million pounds a year for research staff in universities paid on academic scales.

Proposed parental contributions for 1985/86

Residual Income	Students affected	Present	New	Increase
£22,000+	53,000	£1,880	£2,405	£725
£20,000-£22,000	11,000	£1,880	£2,405	£725
£18,000-£20,000	16,000	£1,617	£2,024	£407
£16,000-£18,000	25,000	£1,283	£1,624	£341
£14,000-£16,000	35,000	£1,038	£1,074	£36
£8,100	—	£91	£20	—£71

The effects were criticized by a number of Conservative backbenchers, who felt they would bear too harshly on middle-income families. But ministers see no evidence that the steeper contribution expected of higher income families is acting as a deterrent to entry to higher education, and have decided to continue the shift next year.

There has as yet been no announcement on what happens to students who have been receiving the minimum award not because of their parents' assessed wealth but because they cannot or will not complete the assessment form. The National Union of Students estimates that of the 40,000 plus receiving the minimum award, 4,000 fall into this category.

They will now have to meet not only their full living costs but yearly tuition fees, currently £520. The full effect of this will not be felt until residual income exceeds £22,000 a year, when parents will theoretically have to meet extra £725 a year. The burden will be harsher for those

with more than one child in higher education.

Steep increases in contributions start as low as £14,000 a year, when the amount parents are expected to pay towards maintenance rises from £950 to £1,074, an increase of £124. Tuition fees begin to make an impact from £18,000 upwards when the contribution rises from £1,617 to £2,024, a rise of £407.

There is bound to be pressure from Conservative backbenchers as well as others at least for transitional arrangements, particularly for those whose parents refuse assessment.

The NUS believes that the decision is the thin end of a wedge and brings market forces firmly into higher education, with the prospect of full-cost fees for home students, differentials between arts and science and between institutions.

Beneficiaries from the changes are parents of an estimated 10,000 students who are lifted out of the contributions net by the increase in the earnings threshold.

Leeds Poly lifts degree suspension

Leeds Polytechnic has lifted a suspension on all degrees awarded in its fine arts department after an internal inquiry into appeals by 14 out of the 37 finalists into their degree results.

The investigation found no evidence to support suggestions of "social misconduct" between staff and students. The 14 refused to cooperate with the inquiry. Polytechnic director Dr Patrick Nuttgens, who was one of the three members of the working group, said no evidence had been found of sexual harassment or other misconduct.

The students' union, which has been acting on behalf of some of the students, supported Dr Nuttgens' angry reaction to newspaper stories suggesting sexual misconduct.

New exam 'could extend degree time'

by Patricia Santinelli

Polytechnic directors expressed fears this week that the introduction of Advanced Supplementary (AS) levels could have important implications for the pattern and resourcing of higher education by lengthening the study period for honours degree.

The Committee of Directors of Polytechnics says in its response to the Government proposals on AS levels - worth roughly half an A level - that this could result from the attempt to simultaneously broaden the sixth form curriculum and maintain and improve standards in traditional specialisms within the same timescale.

"Not only could this increase the strain on students, but it could have significant implications for the pattern and resourcing of higher education and encourage a move towards the models familiar elsewhere in western Europe, where the time taken to achieve honours standard is generally longer," the CDP says.

It also points out that although arts and social science students could benefit from studying, say, a mathematics AS level without detrimental effect on their A level studies, this would not be the case for electrical/electronic engineering/biochemistry students. These could cope with three A levels but no more and it was not obvious what could be sacrificed to accommodate an AS level.

The CDP says that it is questionable whether effective AS programmes can be developed at a time when severe reductions in resources have already placed many school and colleges in great difficulties.

"We are concerned that if institutions of higher education were to give preference to applicants with AS levels, students from establishments which because of resource constraints are unable to mount many or any AS level courses, may find themselves seriously disadvantaged. We hope that appropriate funding will be forthcoming," the committee says.

The CDP is also worried about the fact that the proposals do not acknowledge the entry requirements for the full range of advanced further education courses offered by polytechnics. It says it remains to be seen whether AS subjects would meet entry requirements for courses validated by the Business and Technician Education Council. The committee hopes, too, that if AS levels are introduced, they will be developed in further education colleges as well as schools.

The committee adds that very careful consideration will be needed to ensure that modifications to entry criteria do not result in injustices. It says that general entry requirements are likely to be more easily modified than those of individual teaching departments, where a natural inclination may persist to favour applicants with subject qualifications which are especially relevant to a specific course.

In September
The Times Higher Education
Supplement

published a 4-page analysis of the joint statement from the University Grants Committee and the National Advisory Body regarding the basis for considering the present and future role of higher education in our society.

Copies are available at 30p each*. Please make your cheques/postal orders payable to Times Newspapers Limited and send to:

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Strategy threat angers physicists

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

Members of the high-level committee examining Britain's contribution to particle physics, and the physicists themselves, are angry at the Science and Engineering Research Council's apparent threat to preempt the committee's findings in its own strategy review.

The committee, appointed by the Department of Education and Science and chaired by Sir John Kendrew, is due to pronounce on Britain's future in high energy physics research, including our membership of the European Nuclear Research Centre (CERN) in Geneva by next spring.

However, Professor John Kingman, the SERC's chairman, indicated recently that the council would have to come to its own view about particle physics if Kendrew did not report by February. And he is understood to have told the council's particle physics committee that the SERC's financial position is so bad it may have to pull out of CERN anyway, regardless of Kendrew's findings.

The council's nuclear physics board is alarmed at the timescale set for the strategy review, which calls for a complete recasting of the council's priorities, and gave the SERC's secretary Dr Ashley Catterall a hostile reception when he outlined the shape of the review at a recent board meeting.

Professor John Dowell, chairman of the particle physics committee which answers to the nuclear physics board, said it was very difficult to comprehend the council's behaviour. He felt the thinking behind the SERC review was completely wrong, and showed a lack of understanding of the long-term commitments binding the council. "You can't have random changes of plan at the whim of a few people sitting round a table," he said.

Professor Dowell, who also chairs an *ad hoc* committee coordinating the particle physics community's submissions to the Kendrew group, was also angered by a paper submitted from the

Confederation of British Industry calling for a reduction of British support for high energy physics.

The CBI paper falls short of recommending withdrawal from CERN outright, but it suggests "the UK is no longer in the league of rich countries which alone can play a major part in the support of such expensive pure science". More generally, the paper argues that there is no necessary relation between British scientific discoveries and development of British technology, and says undue concentration on basic research could damage national technology by diverting the best technical manpower.

Professor Dowell said the paper was "obviously written by clowns", who believed basic science was irrelevant to anything except keeping people busy in universities. His own group will submit four papers to the Kendrew group. Two already sent in cover the general role of the UK in particle physics and, ambitiously, the need for additional funds to ensure best British use of existing or planned particle accelerators.

The committee has also received submissions from many individual physicists, including strong letters of support for continued British membership of CERN from Abdus Salam and Sheldon Glashow, joint Nobel prize-winners and Professor Jack Sandweiss of Yale University, chairman of the US High Energy Physics Advisory Panel.

The Kendrew group is now moving into the second phase of its inquiry and will soon have a round of meetings with the heads of research councils to discuss the trickiest part of its terms of reference - the alternative uses of the £50m a year Britain now spends on high energy particle physics research. This is tantamount to asking the committee to play the role of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, which advises the DES on the division of the science budget. So far, there is little indication the Kendrew group will do more than rehearse the new bids in the "forward look" produced by the individual councils.

Efficiency study warning

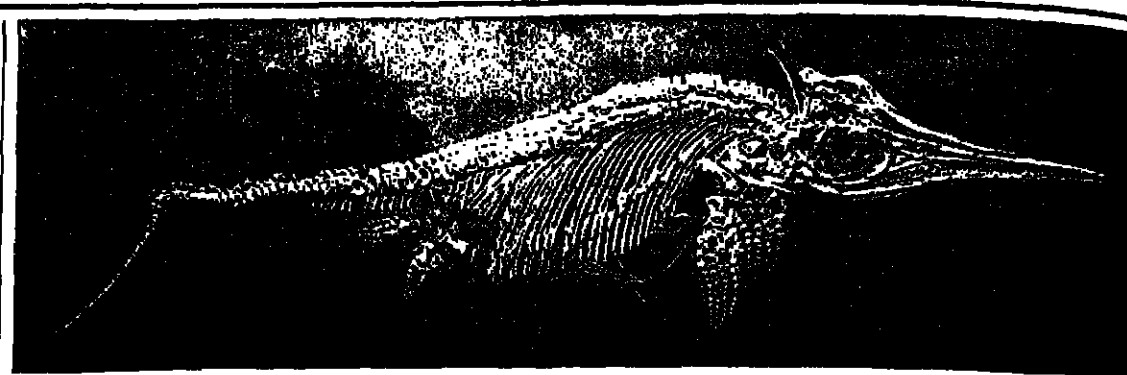
University white collar workers have been warned by their union that efficiency and work study exercises may be an attempt to prepare the ground for privatization.

Mr John Daly, general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, has told university branch secretaries: "Branches should always view such proposals as a potential move towards privatization." Nalgo leaders are still deeply suspicious of the Jarratt efficiency study and are due to meet Sir Alex shortly to discuss their fears once more.

The union has been told of an

"increasing" number of universities which, members say, are attempting to contract out campus services such as catering, computing, and cleaning. It believes that the Jarratt inquiry may accelerate this process.

As a first step, branches are being advised to seek firm assurances that no work currently done by university employees will be passed to any outside contractor. The union's national universities committee believes that contracting out campus services will lead to poorer quality, loss of effective control of standards of service, lost jobs and poorer pay and conditions.



Glasgow University students have discovered the remains of a 200 million year old reptile. The fossil of an Ichthyosaur, a dolphin-like sea creature, was discovered by final year students on a field trip last month to Robin Hood Bay on the Yorkshire coast.

One student, Mr Andrew McNally, was ham-

mering open rocks on the cliff face when he uncovered part of the Ichthyosaur jaw, complete with teeth. It is rare to find even isolated fragments of the creatures, but the students seem to have recovered an almost complete skeleton, around a metre long. The specimen is now being pieced together at Glasgow.

Councillors in plea for Leith college

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

A deputation of politicians from Lothian region has urged the Government to refrain Leith Nautical College as a central institution, making it the national centre for Scottish nautical education.

The former Council for Tertiary Education had advised the Scottish Office to transfer the Edinburgh college from central control to Lothian region, but the government delayed its decision until a joint working party of the Scottish Education Department and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities had completed a review of Scottish nautical education.

The report concluded that there should be only one major nautical centre, and that it should be Glasgow College of Nautical Studies. However, at last month's meeting of COSLA's education committee, the chairman of Lothian's education committee, Councillor Astrid Huggins, successfully argued that the working party should reconsider whether nautical studies should be centred in Edinburgh or Glasgow.

Councillor Huggins, who headed the deputation to Mr Allan Stewart, Scottish Office minister for industry and education, said there was a strong case for retaining the east coast college. There was four times more tonnage on the Forth than the Clyde, and twice as many pilots.

Lothian's education committee had not considered the issue of Leith being transferred to the regional council, said Councillor Huggins.

Mr Stewart told the delegation, which included Tory MP Lord James Douglas-Hamilton and Labour MPs Dr Gavin Strang and Mr John Howe Robertson, that although the government is waiting for the new working party report, expected early next month, the decision on Leith's future would be a ministerial one.

New group set up to look at library skills

A new transbinary group to study the teaching of librarianship skills in universities, polytechnics and colleges in the wake of the information technology revolution, is to be set up by the University Grants Committee and the National Advisory Body.

The group, which will become the third in a series after studies of agricultural and architectural education, will look at the supply of and demand for librarians, and the changing role of the job from assiduous keeper of books to technology wizard.

At present there are 17 schools of librarianship. Six are at the universities of Queen's Belfast, Strathclyde, Loughborough, Sheffield, City and University College London (the last three offering only postgraduate courses) and seven at Birmingham, Brighton, Leeds, Liverpool, North London, Manchester, and Newcastle polytechnics. There are also courses at the College of Librarianship, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Robert Gordon Institute of Technology in Aberdeen and Loughborough Technical College.

In 1983, more than 1,000 students began new courses, including 551 undergraduates taking three or four-year courses, 553 postgraduates and 115 doing part-time or diploma courses.

The UGC and the NAB are still discussing the terms of reference and no chairman has been selected. But already the Library Association, which validates all courses in the field, has

written asking to be kept in the picture, and the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries this week made clear its strong interest in the inquiry.

A key issue will be to investigate how a librarian's job has diversified. While traditional skills of selecting and cataloguing books are still required, new skills in purchasing and installing new technology information systems are now much more important.

According to the association, demand for librarians overall is on the increase, with a variety of new opportunities for example in local radio, local advice units, and information consultancy. But traditional jobs in university and college libraries have shrunk because of expenditure cuts.

After a meeting convened by Heriot-Watt's principal, Iain Johnston, it emerged that British Telecom was to provide communication services probably via a special weather line, while the Meteorological Office and the Glasgow Weather Centre were prepared to provide the forecasts.

The problem has been to define the service required and convince British Telecom of the evidence of demand. Professor Desmond Smith, professor of physics at Heriot-Watt, said: "Presently no body is willing to accept responsibility for defining what is needed and asking for it."

Although admitting to "a little disappointment" at the outcome of the meeting, Professor Smith said that a solution would come if a consumer group was set up to request and coordinate the pressure for the proposal.

Natthe saves seats for women

The college lecturers' union has surprisingly joined the tiny band of unions with reserved places for women on their executives. Delegates to the national council of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education gave a narrow two-thirds majority to a plan to set aside five seats for women on its executive of 25.

The result was a surprise not only for union officials, who had anticipated a defeat, but for women who have been campaigning for the change. Last week it seemed likely that the rule changes needed would fail but the votes of a couple of smaller regions swayed the result.

A few unions already have reserved seats but they are a tiny minority with the TUC.

crumbling foundations of our future as is the crumbling physical infrastructure that all the Opposition parties, the Confederation of British Industry and a wide spectrum of others want the Government to invest in.

That isn't to say, of course, that there should or could be infinite resources to spend on education. We clearly have to get every pennyworth of value from every pound we spend. We also have to get every pound we can lay our hands on from private as well as public sources. It would help to do both these things if Government looked upon the product of our higher education institutions more as a gold rather than as slightly tarnished brass. This might encourage those involved in higher education to consider radical and possibly uncomfortable changes to increase productivity and to do so for the sake of education and their students. It might also encourage some more of the potential sources of private funds to cough up.

Ian Wigglesworth

The author is Special Democratic MP for Stockton South.

The myth of tenure by law professor

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

Academic tenure may well be a myth, according to Professor David M. Walker of the private law department at Glasgow University.

Professor Walker, writing in the university's newsletter, says that an investigation into the general position under Scots law "suggests that the foundation for the belief in tenure is very shaky."

This undermines opposition to the

proposed abolition of tenure, he points out, but he argues that statutory provision "could be beneficial if it clarified the situation, and it might even protect individuals better than the common law or the existing general employment protection legislation."

Under common law, says Professor Walker, it seems that professors had tenure *ad vitam aut culpam* (for life or until fault) since they were deemed to hold public office. However, parish school-teachers, who held a similar position, lost this status last century.

And he concludes that *ad vitam aut culpam* "has probably now disappeared in all cases."

It seems fairly certain that under common law, all other academic and academic-related staff have never had similar security of tenure, says Professor Walker.

And he stresses that nothing in modern legislation seems to support the view that academics are immune from dismissal short of retirement age. Indeed, he says that probably the only category of people who enjoy tenure

are registered dock workers under a 1946 act.

It is both "logically and legally fallacious", says Professor Walker, to argue that because there seem to be no instances of academics being dismissed except for misconduct, there cannot be dismissal without misconduct. It may simply be that the question has not arisen.

"Nor is it of any validity to contend that most people have hitherto thought, or believed, that academics did, or do have 'tenure'," he warns.



Correcting a failure of identity

Some people in polytechnics - though not very many - will be astounded at the findings of the MORI poll published in *The Times* on October 2 indicating that there are more people who think that polytechnics do CSEs than there are to think that they prepare for doctorates. Yet this is all part of the emerging pattern which indicates the need for a serious review of the system under which the polytechnics and other major public sector higher education colleges operate.

When the MORI poll can show that people believe that polytechnics do O levels rather than degrees, CSEs rather than doctorates, then it is clear that there is a failure of identity. When the generality of employers, students and parents automatically believe that it is better to go to any university than to go to a polytechnic then it is clear that there is a failure of credibility.

Yet the problem is not endemic: the *Technisches Hochschulen* in Germany, the *écoles polytechniques* in France and the polytechnic university of Zurich do not lack identity or credibility through not being conventional universities. It may be argued that, in terms of standards, the validation system under which polytechnics operate provides greater protection than is available to such institutions or to universities but this is simply no use if it is not accepted and recognized. If the customers do not believe it. There appears to be six main reasons why the problem of identity and credibility arises.

- Polytechnics (and similar colleges) may not approve their own qualifications and do not award their own degrees: they must always appear with their L plates.
- Polytechnics have been under-resourced relative to the universities.
- It is denied that polytechnics are places of research and scholarship.
- The local authorities and further education lecturers' union have widely publicized the "fact", particularly during the setting up of the National Advisory Body, that polytechnics are really no different from everybody's local technical or further education college.
- Polytechnics have lacked, as is shown by the decision on Ulster Polytechnic, and also by the MORI poll, that name which, in the UK at least, appears to be synonymous in the public mind with degree and higher degree awards.

There are likely to be two spontaneous reactions to this list of possible causes. The first will be that the causes do not take into account the fact that, in terms of the value which is added to the student by the education which they provide, the polytechnics are in no wise second to the universities. However, common sense will argue that the added value is of little use to student or employer if they fail to recognize it.

The second reaction will be that changes would remove these causes, thus rectifying the problems of identity and credibility might make the polytechnics too like universities. But the insistence on proper terms of reference for institutions (terms which do not presently exist) would alleviate that difficulty while the cost to polytechnic and other public sector higher education students of maintaining the differential in their status relative to the university students is too high for them to pay and too high for the system to demand.

A. J. Pounton

The author is national secretary of the Association of Polytechnic Teachers.

Winter forecasting proposal gets a cool reception

by David Jobbins

Scientists at Heriot-Watt University are disappointed with the slow progress in turning their weather-recording project in the Cairngorms into a widely available winter forecasting service for skiers, climbers and hill-walkers. The university's physics department has been collecting data from an automatic weather station on the 4,000-plus feet summit of Cairn Gorm since 1976, and the current version has been in operation through six sub-arctic winters.

Tragically the effect of the extreme conditions on Cairn Gorm (temperatures as low as minus 15.5 degrees centigrade and wind strengths of up to 148 mph have been recorded) were brought home to the university last year when three of its students died in a blizzard.

The instruments emerge from the station automatically for three minutes every half hour in order to prevent them from continual exposure, and the data is transmitted to the Glasgow Weather Centre as well as to the university. A readout is also available locally, but the scientists are concerned that the data could be used to provide a widely accessible forecast for hill walkers.

After a meeting convened by Heriot-Watt's principal, Iain Johnston, it emerged that British Telecom was to provide communication services probably via a special weather line, while the Meteorological Office and the Glasgow Weather Centre were prepared to provide the forecasts.

The problem has been to define the service required and convince British Telecom of the evidence of demand. Professor Desmond Smith, professor of physics at Heriot-Watt, said: "Presently no body is willing to accept responsibility for defining what is needed and asking for it."

Although admitting to "a little disappointment" at the outcome of the meeting, Professor Smith said that a solution would come if a consumer group was set up to request and coordinate the pressure for the proposal.

The automatic weather station on Cairn Gorm

Praise for enthusiastic prison staff

by Maggie Richards

Staff in the education department at Manchester Prison have received a glowing report on their activities from Her Majesty's Inspectors.

In its findings, published this week, the inspectorate says the full-time staff possess a blend of expertise, experience and enthusiasm which bring "vigour, purpose and vitality to much of their teaching".

The report points out, however, that the educational provision at Manchester has to be set against the prison's Victorian origins and its current functions catering for convicted adults, young prisoners, and as a remand institution for those awaiting trial or sentence.

Despite expansion of the adult education service within the prison, the report expresses concern over some "disquieting features". As less than 20 per cent of adult inmates attend classes, urgent consideration should be given to increasing the amount of cell tuition, it recommends.

Greater priority should be given to those adult prisoners requiring tuition in basic skills - at present only 2 per cent are being taught.

"It is, however, to the credit of the education department staff that a real effort has been made to include within the curriculum an opportunity for reflection and discussion of issues of human concern and conflict. It is suggested that if imprisonment is con-

cerned with change as well as containment, such teaching approaches deserve further thought, experiment and encouragement," the report adds.

Young offenders with sentences of more than 18 months need a more challenging educational programme. The inspectors are also critical of library provision. They complain it is housed in poor accommodation, has an unsatisfactory stock of reference and non-fiction books, and imposes unreasonable borrowing restrictions.

Report by HM Inspectors on Education Department, HM Prison, Manchester. Available from: DES, Publications Despatch Centre, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AZ.

CATE groups start work

The Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education has set up three regional groups which are charged initially with assessing teacher training courses at some 15 institutions in the next three months.

The list of institutions, which is to be set by the beginning of next academic year, will not be published until next month when CATE holds its first meeting.

The council was set up by the Secretary of State for Education to review all existing and new teacher training courses against new criteria. These requirements were originally outlined in the White Paper *Teaching Quality*. It is chaired by Dr William Taylor, Principal of the University of

only be taken by the full council - because it faces the mammoth task of assessing some 85 institutions or 600 courses over a three to four year period.

It has appointed three conveners: Mr Andrew Collier, chief education officer of Lancashire; Mr Peter Snape, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association; and Dr Mary Hall-avay, principal of Trinity and All Saints College.

Each of the groups will base its evaluation of individual institutions on a range of documentation including Her Majesty's Inspectorate reports and submissions from institutions, as well as on visits.

"It is hoped that in the initial stages there will be several of these, so as to ensure that members are familiar with all aspects of work in institutions," Dr Taylor said.

Merritt supports status move

Mr Neil Merritt, director of Ealing College and a member of the board of the National Advisory Body, has added his voice to those calling for the extension of university status to the public sector.

Speaking at his college's degrees ceremony last week, Mr Merritt claimed that there was a confusion of names for higher education institutions. "The present situation is a mess," he said.

"To presume that our existing major institutes polytechnics and colleges are somehow different and hence may be inferior to university providers is not only not true but is unnecessarily divisive. We seek a title that aptly describes our work."

"There has been talk of using the term local authority university for institutions in the maintained sector. I support that nomenclature because I

support wholeheartedly the notion of local authorities and local communities having the closest association with their institutions of higher education," he said, adding that the NAB and the Government should act to erode the present erroneous distinction.

Mr Merritt also expressed deep concern at the establishment of a clearing house for the polytechnics. The development had been promoted by the Government without any consultation with the colleges and institutes, creating an apparent league table of providers of higher education, he said.

"Such developments are disgraceful, promoting as they do apparent educational structures which suggest that both Government and those who provide for the institutions of higher education seek a hierarchical structure of institutions."

Shake-up in dental training

from John Walshe

DUBLIN

Radical changes in dental teaching at Trinity College Dublin are striking at the very roots of the dental profession and leading to uttering of "socialist thinking" in some quarters.

If they are successful most Trinity dental graduates of the future will either be specialists or engaged largely in preventative work. The changes come about after a crisis which culminated in a failure rate in the certifying dental examination of more than 30 per cent.

Dr Martin Hobdell, professor of community dental health/preventative dentistry and general practice, said that like many other countries that had been colonized, Ireland had tried to duplicate the system of the colonial power.

In addition, Irish graduates emigrated to Britain to gain experience or to undergo further training. This imposed patterns more appropriate to Britain than to Ireland.

"Unfortunately the gross domestic product of Ireland is about half that of Britain and replication of the dental educational system is not possible," he said. "Also, there are different patterns of oral disease, attitudes to oral health, income and wealth."

One of the most striking differences is in children's teeth. Irish children have far fewer extracted or decayed teeth than most of their European counterparts. The main reason is the high level of fluoridization in Irish water.

At the other end of the age scale, adults have fewer teeth - natural or false - than British adults. Ireland also has one of the highest consumptions of sugar in Europe.

The curriculum at the school of dental science - part of a teaching hospital - was changed with more emphasis being placed on preventative and community dental health.

The school has the backing of the World Health Organization which has designed Trinity a coordinating centre for similar programmes elsewhere. It also has the approval of the university council and the board of Trinity College.

But there are misgivings. The Irish Academy of American graduate Dental Specialists has expressed concern that new graduates will not have the skills necessary to provide a high standard of practical dentistry.

And three senior professors at the school last year warned the university council that the school would gradually become subsumed in a morass of academic mediocrity.

Professor Hobdell rejects any suggestion that the changes will be an excuse for sloppy work. But he is equally adamant about the need for change saying "more dental treatment in a community does not necessarily mean better oral health - the two are not synonymous".

Right-wing propaganda floods campuses

from Caroline Dempster

JOHANNESBURG

A spate of sophisticated right-wing publications on South African campuses has heralded the resurgence of conservative student politics at universities traditionally dominated by the liberal left-wing National Union of South African Students.

In recent months, the universities of the Witwatersrand, Cape Town and Natal/Pietermaritzburg have been flooded with pro-South Africa propaganda pamphlets and publications distributed by the National Student Federation.

Formed in April this year as a counter to the liberal student movement on open campuses, the federation espouses the moderate cause of conservative English-speaking white students.

In one publication, Mr Jean Visser, chairman of the NSF founding affiliate, the student moderate alliance, at

Education chief quits Reagan cabinet

from Deborah Kasow

WASHINGTON

President Reagan's landslide victory in last week's elections may have left the substance of United States higher education policy unaltered but two important changes have followed in the leading figures in Washington. Out of his own accord goes Mr Terrel Bell, the education secretary, and into the Senate comes Illinois Congressman Mr Paul Simon, a staunch supporter of higher education during his 10 years in the House of Representatives.

Mr Bell is resigning his position from December 31, according to a White House spokesman, making him the first member of the cabinet to resign since the election.

Mr Bell, who has served as education secretary since 1981, is reportedly planning to return to his home state of Utah and will become a professor in the education department of the University of Utah.

He came to Washington when President Reagan was vowing to abolish the department of education, but the secretary, who opposed such a move, is credited with not only saving it, but with strengthening it during his four years in office.

He set up a National Commission on Excellence in Education to examine the quality of education in the nation's secondary schools and the highly critical report which resulted sparked a nationwide education reform movement.

Just last month another panel of educators released a report sponsored by the department of education which



Terrel Bell ... back to Utah



Paul Simon ... into the Senate

was similarly critical of the current state of higher education institutions and educators had hoped it would result in the same kind of nationwide reform effort.

Mr Bell spent a major portion of his time in office fighting education budget-cutting attempts by the office of management and budget, and OMB director David Stockman has vowed to continue those efforts during President Reagan's second term.

However, Education Department officials speculate that Mr Bell merely grew tired of the job and wanted to return home, satisfied he had made a contribution.

The names of possible successors are

already circulating in Washington, including Mr John Silber, president of Boston University, and William Bennett, director of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Mr Bell's departure is expected to result in a scramble for the position by conservatives who became increasingly dissatisfied with his performance in the office.

Mr Simon, chairman of the House Postsecondary Education Committee, has been a leading opponent of administration efforts to cut education funds, and recently received a 100 per cent rating on the National Education Association's legislative "report card".

The congressman's most recent

efforts on behalf of education have been in support of college scholarships for high school students planning to enter the teaching profession, and passage of a \$50m programme to encourage foreign language and international study.

Last year Mr Simon co-authored the emergency Math, Science and Foreign Languages Education Act, a multi-million dollar measure designed to revitalize those instructional areas in both secondary and post-secondary institutions, and to set a national policy for training and maintaining an adequate supply of scientific and engineering talent in American colleges and universities.

As chairman of the House Postsecondary Education Committee, Mr Simon has helped to draw national attention to a number of problems in education by initiating hearings on teacher quality, maths and science education, foreign language study, adult illiteracy, and American-Soviet education and cultural exchange practices.

Last year he won approval for the Challenge Grant Endowments programme, which provides matching federal funds to help Title III colleges start endowment programmes.

This was considered a breakthrough for the nation's black colleges, freeing them from financial dependency on tuition income alone.

When Mr Simon assumes his Senate seat in January, educators expect the 55-year-old former college professor to continue his vigorous opposition to any further spendings cuts in education.

US link in Yugoslav trial

from Geoff Maslen

An end-of-course paper written at Brandeis University in the United States has become important evidence in the current trial for subversion of six Yugoslav intellectuals, members of the unofficial Belgrade seminar raised by security police on Good Friday.

One of the defendants, Milan Nikolic, a sociology graduate employed at Belgrade's institute for agricultural economics, visited the United States two years ago, to work for a master's degree. The paper was an assignment set by Professor Ralph Milliband, and dealt with management and social control.

The paper, and another essay, not by Mr Nikolic, were among documents confiscated by the police at the time of his arrest in May. Questioned during pre-trial investigations, Mr Nikolic refused to answer questions on either paper, claiming that since they were both written in English, they could be treated as admissible evidence until an acceptable translation into Serbo-Croat was provided.

Such gibbering (for Mr Nikolic, as author of one of the papers and sufficiently fluent English to have a translation) has become the keynote of the defence. When the trial opened on November 5, one of the defendants, Miodrag Milic, immediately applied for an adjournment, on the grounds that he had not been permitted to copy certain legal documents and hence was deprived of his right to defence.

Another defendant, Pavlovko Imrovic, went further and demanded that the whole bench of magistrates and jury should be dismissed since as members of the Communist Party they were clearly not impartial. Although these protests won only a brief adjournment, they were sufficient for the defendants' purpose; to stop the case from being slipped through while the world opinion was distracted by the final run up to the United States presidential election.

In this aim, moreover, they were inadvertently assisted by police bungling. Four members of the West German Bundestag, one Independent and three Greens including the Greens' leader Petra Kelly, were prevented by the police from meeting with the defendants and their representatives and threatened with deportation and exclusion from Yugoslavia for three years.

This attack on the Greens' encouraged other Western politicians to take an interest in the case.

Loans replace scholarships

by Geoffrey Parkins

Negri Sembilan state in west Malaysia is to replace higher education scholarships with a new student loan scheme in the new year. Many other state education departments are expected to follow this lead in the near future.

The decision was made at a recent board meeting of the Negri Sembilan Foundation in Seremban. Its chairman, Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamed Isa, said that he was very pleased with the scheme, especially as it would enable far greater numbers of young people to further their studies than under the scholarship system.

Under the new scheme students will pay back the loans over a specified period, depending on circumstances. They will also agree to serve the state government or its agencies for a period of five years after graduating, compared to the 10 years of compulsory service under the old scholarship scheme.

Loans are thought to be a more realistic method of financing students, that will make higher education available to a greater number of students at a time of financial constraints and when government expenditure on education is expected to fall. They are also argued to be a fairer way of financing education, as they remove the burden of cost from the citizen who receives no direct benefit from higher education.

It is also hoped that a loans scheme will have the effect of discouraging free-riders and engender a more responsible attitude in students toward initial choice of course and subsequent study.

The scheme will be by no means Malaysia's first. The Koperasi Jajadi Malaysia (Kojadi) cooperative society set up its higher education loan scheme in 1981 and has since helped more than 68,000 young people obtain higher education, most of whom would otherwise have received none.

Datuk Lee San Choon, the society's president, speaking at its recent annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur, said that official figures showed that only 1 per cent of those who attend school would eventually be able to enter a university. Recent surveys of 17 to 19-year-olds in Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Kota Bharu and Johore Bharu revealed that as many as 43 per cent of Malays and 60 per cent of Chinese and Indians were not receiving any form of further or higher education after leaving school.

Polys rated by German industry

from Barbara von Ow

MUNICH

Polytechnics, still considered a somewhat inferior form of higher education in West German popular opinion, appear to have quietly dethroned the traditional university as a recruiting ground for industry. According to a study by the Institute of German Economy, polytechnic graduates now outnumber university graduates in German industry, indicating that their practically orientated qualifications are more in line with industrial demand.

According to the report, most of the enterprises interviewed - while making qualitative distinctions between individual polytechnics and individual degree courses - gave a positive assessment of polytechnic universities. They were most favoured in the field of middle management. The intellectual qualifications of traditional university graduates were still being recognized, particularly for top level positions, but the overwhelming number of firms described the job prospects of both types of graduates as equal.

Some 60 per cent of all polytechnic graduates employed in industry were engineers, almost 30 per cent economists. Their starting salaries, ranging around 40,000 DM, annually, were about 10 per cent below university graduates. However, polytechnic students appeared to have less difficulty in finding employment adequate to their qualifications. Despite the wide publicity given to graduate unemployment, many university students still had a great deal of illusions about their prospects for high level positions, the report noted.

Meanwhile, news of the good job opportunities for polytechnic students seems to be spreading. The run of applications has created a serious capacity problem at German polytechnics. At their recent annual conference in Kempten, polytechnic rectors said they would not be able to cope unless they were given government support. The situation in Bavaria - where there were 48,000 students for 25,000 polytechnic places - was enough to "scare you out of your mind", conference chairman Willibald Jost stated. In Munich, the country's most beleaguered university, the ratio was 14,000 for 3,500 places.

A speaker from the employment office in Nuremberg also underscored the good job prospects for polytechnic graduates.

The rectors renewed complaints that modern technologies were still insufficiently taught at German polytechnics because of lack of funds. They also called on the foreign office in Bonn to step up efforts to achieve international recognition for German polytechnic degrees which they described as "first ranking export articles".

Also at the conference a leading academic called for an expansion of the subjects offered by polytechnics to meet increasing demand. Jurgen Tippe, rector of the technical polytechnic university of Berlin, suggested that such an expansion should focus mainly on the fields of law and administration. foreign languages teacher training and medical technology as well as on possible "cooperation models" between polytechnics and industry.

Soviet 'creativity' urged

Soviet students must be encouraged to be more "creative" according to a recent Pravda editorial. Such leading articles are traditionally regarded in the Soviet Union as a pointer to new government and party policy, however student "creativity" it appears, can have a number of interpretations.

For the students of the Perm pedagogic college, commended in Pravda, it is taken to mean their initiative in going out into the schools, vocational secondary schools and children's homes, organizing festivals and competitions to assist young people to "recognize their own callings".

Such vocational guidance is particularly important under the new school reform, which theoretically links education more closely with one's future career, but which, according to a number of complaints in the Soviet media, have been introduced without sufficient consideration of vocational guidance within the school system.

For the most part, however, creativity is interpreted in the sense of

inventiveness. In the technical sciences, as Pravda notes, has long been the tradition of "hundreds" of universities and colleges which have turned out students capable of presenting practical blueprints and projects as a part of their degree work. Participation in technical students' circles and students' design bureaux is an essential part of such training, the first such "circle" having been founded by the father of Russian aviation Nikolai Zhukovsky.

Nevertheless, although every year "tens and indeed hundreds" of projects developed in such circles are recommended for implementation in industry and agriculture, the general record, Pravda implies, is poor. In contrast to such large and prestigious student design bureaux as that of the Lvov Polytechnic Institute, many groups consist of students with enthusiasm but no basic practical facilities. Barely one in three students prepares his or her diploma project under the auspices of such a bureau, says Pravda. Traditionally, university teachers in

the Soviet Union need have little contact with students outside the formal lectures. Little attempt is made to make the material presented comprehensible, attendance in many institutions is not monitored and students who fail to understand lecture material are made to feel at fault. Consequently a student's success or failure can largely depend on the keenness of one or two lecturers and professors who exert themselves outside the official timetable to provide the kind of tuition which elsewhere is given in formal tutorials.

Such extracurricular activity by faculty members is officially considered as a sign of ideological commitment (they could otherwise spend the time earning fat fees for private coaching), the mark of a devoted Party member - and something to be taken into account when medals and orders are being distributed. While overtly praising and urging such Communist endeavours in universities the tone of the Pravda editorial suggests that there is considerable high level dissatisfaction with the current system.

New science body chiefs announced

from David Dickson

PARIS

The executive committee of the European Science Foundation, based in Strasbourg, is to recommend to the general assembly the appointment of Professor Eugene Seibold as its new president and Mr Michael Posner as secretary general.

Professor Seibold, president of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Association) in Bonn, was one of the two vice-presidents of the foundation between 1980 and 1983 and is also a member of the executive committee. He will replace Professor Hubert Curien, who is resigning his position following his appointment as France's minister of research and technology.

Mr Posner, who succeeds Mr John Goormaghtigh, will be taking over as head of the ESF's secretariat at a particularly critical time for the organization, which has come under increasing pressure from various European countries - France in particular - to stimulate closer co-operation between European research workers.

A meeting of the research ministers of the 21-member countries of the



Michael Posner: critical time

Council of Europe, for example, has passed a resolution asking the foundation to submit to it before next March proposals for strengthening networks linking research institutions in specific scientific disciplines throughout Europe, and, if necessary, creating new networks.

The ESF was also asked to report

progress on the development of these networks as well as on steps to increase the general ability of research workers between different countries, to the committee of ministers of the Council of Europe within a period of two years.

Next week's meeting of the ESF will also attempt to smooth the ruffled feelings of some of its member countries - in particular Denmark and Italy - who feel that they have been unfairly squeezed out of negotiations over the siting of the proposed European Synchrotron Radiation Facility by the two countries which have agreed to provide the bulk of the funding, France and West Germany.

France recently announced that it had agreed with Germany that the new facility, which will cost about £160m, will be located in Grenoble, adjacent to the facilities of the Institut Laue-Langevin. However some members of the ESF, which set up the original committee that carried out much of the initial planning for the facility, have expressed their strong criticism of the way that the siting decision appears to have been taken bilaterally, rather than through a broad consultation with all other interested countries as many had hoped.

French concern over 'library lag'

from Craig Charney

PARIS

Insufficient funding and poor organization have left French university libraries far behind those in other major Western countries, provoking talk of a "library lag".

Spending per student on documentary acquisition is three to six times higher at German and American universities than at those in France, according to estimates. As a result, according to a Parisian university librarian, "the poverty of the libraries already obliges the people in certain sectors to go on research trips abroad. It will finish by bringing down entire areas of research".

France's 60 university libraries contain 17 million books, while 700 plus

departmental libraries hold eight million more. However, these figures mask sizeable disparities in resources. The libraries in Paris contain half of the collection, though the capital has only a third of the country's students. Even in universities with comparable numbers of students, figures show differences of 25 per cent to 40 per cent in holdings and funding. At the smallest library, at the University of Valenciennes, 15,000 books are available for 3,000 students.

The lack of specialization in purchasing policies has led both to the duplication of many reference books and to the absence of other works essential to keep up with the frontiers of research. French university libraries are also far behind those abroad in the use of computer and information technology.

The position appears most serious in the departmental libraries. While no exact figures exist for their purchase survey by *Le Monde de l'Education* found librarians speaking of budgets "dropping vertically".

Since the arrival of the socialist government in 1981, a number of initiatives have been undertaken in an effort to redress the situation.

The creation of a directorate of libraries, museums and scientific and technical information in the education ministry in 1982 has also produced efforts to establish a more coherent library policy. It remains to be seen, however, whether the government's will - and funding - will suffice to close the gap on France's competitors.

US bid to ban gene transfer experiments is rejected

from Deborah Kasow

WASHINGTON

The National Institutes of Health, a major funding source for biomedical research in American academic institutions, has rejected an attempt to ban experiments involving the transfer of genes from one mammalian species to another.

The ban was sought by the Foundation of Economic Trends and the National Humane Society in order to give the public the time to discuss the moral and ethical implications of the new research. Mr Jeremy Rifkin, president of the FEET, said: "This is the most impressive technological intervention in human history and we begin a long journey to change life by design, raises the most complex social, environmental, and

political questions ever raised in a social context in history." The Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, which advises the NIH on gene-splicing research, unanimously rejected the proposal, which would have also prohibited the NIH from providing financial support to any institution involved in gene-transfer experiments.

The committee stated that such experiments should be allowed to continue because they are needed to develop new treatments for certain diseases in humans and animals, and that such research may also be valuable in improving the efficiency of food production in livestock. Proponents, angered by the attempts to halt the gene-transfer experiments, claim that the work is necessary as an essential tool in many experiments

aimed at understanding medical problems and the function of genes.

Last year scientists at the University of Pennsylvania successfully transferred growth hormone genes to mice, producing animals nearly twice their normal size. They said those experiments have allowed them to study the development of human tumors in living systems without using humans.

Mr Rifkin recently filed a lawsuit against the department of agriculture to halt the gene-transfer experiments by scientists at both the University of Pennsylvania and at the agriculture department.

After the NIH committee rejected his proposal, Mr Rifkin said he plans to modify the proposal for reconsideration at the committee's next meeting, and will name the NIH as a defendant in the lawsuit against the

department of agriculture.

Mr Rifkin has already succeeded in stopping one type of genetic-engineering research by persuading a federal judge last May to rule that all federally supported experiments involving the release of genetically engineered organisms should be temporarily halted. The University of California is currently appealing against the decision.

The Foundation on Economic Trends and the National Humane Society have also put scientists and experts on the defensive about the recent experimental transplant of a baboon's heart into the body of a baby girl at the Loma Linda University medical school.

The infant, known as Baby Fae, suffered from a fatal birth defect.



The threat to academic freedom

Representatives of nine national university teacher associations meeting in Washington DC have just issued a joint statement in defence of academic freedom and tenure. The decision of academic leaders from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, France and the United States to emphasize their growing concern for assaults on academic freedom is worth pondering.

The growing tide of conservatism, especially the mean-spirited conservatism of Reagan and Thatcher, is certainly one source of concern. A president who describes objection to organized prayer in state-funded schools as intolerance necessarily occasions anxiety.

The American Association of University Professors has found it necessary to issue three statements of concern in response to governmental intrusions on the academic process in the last two years as a result of demands of visas to visiting scholars, the expansion of censorship on research and publication, and broadened restriction on access to government data.

Such extreme actions are less likely in the other democracies. Yet the threat to academic freedom and tenure is pervasive because it reflects not only political reaction but the underlying readjustment of western economies. International economic competition fosters policies of austerity damaging to long-term investment in comprehensive education. Universities are expected to achieve the cost-efficiencies and productivity required for short-term economic recovery.

Such pressures not only require staff retrenchment but a massive shift in educational priorities. Universities are judged not for their contribution to learning, civilization and democracy but as high-tech vocational training institutes.

University authorities assess curricula and research in terms of economic rather than educational priorities. Faculty positions are allocated and reallocated to meet vocational needs. Suddenly tenure is perceived as economically inefficient rather than the historic guarantor of intellectual freedom and the advancement of knowledge.

The same economic pressures weaken faculty defences. Individual teachers are less mobile; united action is perceived as special assertion of economic interest. In the US the courts have ruled that faculty staff in independent colleges are middle managers and denied them the right to organized resistance to the new managerial priorities.

But the terms of debate are inadequate. The crucial issue is recognition that universities are not business enterprises but academic societies founded and maintained for the advancement of the knowledge essential to democratic government and civilized life.

It is the identification of faculty with the historic academic mission of the university, not interest or privilege, which requires faculty independence and authority. Correspondingly, current erosions of faculty responsibility and autonomy, if unchecked, will lead to the decline of the university and the democratic civilization to which it vitally contributes.

Ernst Benjamin

The author is general secretary of the American Association of University Professors.

The search for diversity

Ask anyone and they will tell you - these are not the best times to be a student, or the parent of one, in America. But oddly enough, applications to the nation's most selective and most expensive colleges and universities last season hit an all time high. Further, the bulk of these applications, which demand hefty processing fees, are coming from candidates enrolled at public-subsidized secondary schools.

In a time of shrinking household budgets and a dwindling supply of traditional college-age applicants, the number of applications to schools in both sectors nationwide is on the rise. Universities like Harvard and Stanford were forced to enrol as many as 100 more students this term than in previous years because of unusually high "yield rates", which have also broken records. The yield reflects the number of applicants a college has accepted for admission who actually opt to attend. To cover their bets, college admissions officers traditionally send invitations to 600 or more applicants than they actually have room for, fully aware that most have applied and will be accepted elsewhere as well.

At America's elite institutions, applications were up, acceptances down, and yields so steep they have administrators rethinking their recruitment and admissions strategies and observers from within and outside the academic community probing the ways and means of selective college admissions.

Just how does a college choose from around 14,000 applicants to fill 1,600 seats? What are the criteria admissions staff use, and how in the face of a national equal access doctrine, can they justify elitism in the selection process?

"We aim to bring together a freshman class which is not only academically, but is also diverse in terms of the backgrounds of the students and the talents, skills, interests and ambitions they bring with them," notes Mr Fred Hargadon, out-going dean of admissions for Stanford. "This means that for every student we admit, there are several who look very similar whom we cannot admit."

Mr Hargadon is to leave his sunny West Coast position to become vice president of the College Entrance Examination Board in New York City. Founded as a voluntary association for mutual standards-setting among American colleges and universities, the College Board administers a battery of standardized tests which each year have roughly a million secondary school students wringing their hands, suffering weight loss, insomnia, and other anxieties. Chief among these exams is the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), which has come under heavy fire in recent years as several colleges have been accused of relying too heavily on test results in their criteria for selection.

American students have become crafty consumers. They know that more often than not, the college admissions game the bell is generally in their court. In their book-length report, *College Choice in America*, economists Mr Charles Manski and Mr David Wise, respectively of Harvard and Hebrew University of Jerusalem, contend that a student's self-selection, as opposed to the decision of an admissions council, is the prime determinant of what kind of institution a student is likely to attend. Chances for an average secondary school student to land an invitation to the college of their choice - also described as a college of "average quality" - are three out of four. Income plays a greater role in whether a student will finish university than whether they will apply or attend, according to the study from Harvard University Press.

In a scathing review of the book, the National Education Association's programme development specialist, Mr Bernard McKusick, noted that "the authors assume that data from 1972-76 continue to be relevant" and added: "given the flaws in its assumptions, criteria, and methods, this study can't be useful to anyone - student or policy-maker" - in higher education.

The fact is, despite swelling enrolments, the selective colleges simply do not have the room for the numbers now knocking at their doors. In interviews with successful applicants to the eight Ivy League schools, *THE TIMES* found that for all those students "who look very similar" - as Stanford's Mr Hargadon called them, a good number of those admitted said they had aggressively "marketed" themselves -

WORLDWIDE

E. Patrick McQuaid looks at admissions procedures in Ivy League universities

better than the competition. The Ivy League, or Ivy Group as it defines itself, is not a consortium of schools, though some have labeled it a "cartel". The group was established in 1954 primarily to foster "amateurism in athletics" among the eight participating institutions alphabetically, Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton and Yale. The "Ivy League" was later coined by a New York sports reporter.

The colleges are among the nation's oldest and are located throughout the Northeast's original Thirteen Colonies. Most are in New England, also home to the greatest concentration of colleges and universities in the country. Over the years, representatives from the Ivy colleges met informally to discuss mutual interests, including athletics, and today have a "Joint Statement on Common Ivy Group Admission Procedures". Private colleges have found that a large number of well-endowed students will accept admission at more than one college, paying deposits at each, and choose which to attend when it is time to enrol. The joint statement spells out a student's obligations to enrol under a variety of admission options.

The group's harshest critics contend, however, that this is part of a scheme to corner the market on the best and the brightest, and worse, to fix the price of an Ivy education. Reminiscent of OPEC meetings, each spring financial aid staff from each institution convene to negotiate the terms of aid packages they will offer prospective students. Known as Ivy Overlap, the point of the assembly is to reach agreement on how much each applicant can be expected to pay toward their own Ivy expenses. The colleges then agree to account for the difference, through institutional and government grants and a variety of "aid-help", ranging from loans to campus employment.

While the group agrees on how much an applicant's family can cover, each individual aid office will determine how assistance will be awarded. If a college has found a particular applicant extremely desirable, the aid office may offer a package with more grants and gifts than loans or jobs. This practice is becoming more commonplace among selective schools competing for a dwindling supply of first-rate brains and among administrators staffed by a "sweetening the pot".

Members of the Ivy League have agreed not to award outright scholarships for academic or athletic ability. Students may compete for scholarships from outside the institution and later for "prizes" while at college. These are cash awards for essay writing, speaking, drama, debating, research papers, and other academic work sponsored by individual colleges for enrolled students. Thus, the Ivies will consider all applicants for admission without regard to their financial standing and will award aid solely on the basis of their need. In April, Dartmouth alone for this academic year at Dartmouth will cost \$9,810, a 7.9 per cent increase over last year. Total expenses will be \$13,706 - the same as it costs to attend a full four years for Dartmouth's class of 1972. Comparative figures in cost are about \$700 less than the nation's most expensive, undergraduate university, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

At every selective college a certain percentage of each incoming class is reserved for legacies, the children and children's children of the alumni. This practice has as much to do with purse strings as it does with the gene pool. Ivy colleges are slow to show special favour to the offspring of their graduates, but at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for example, the children of alumni are given a 10 per cent discount on tuition.

At Yale, where the ratio of students to teaching staff is low (Harvard is pegged at 1:11) the professorial play a major role in the admissions process. Teaching and admissions staff vote on who to admit using electronic Australian ballots. Switches marked to represent acceptance, rejection, and a deferred decision - a maybe for the following year - are shrouded by a black cloth. The ballots are then counted by hand.

ates, trustees, benefactors and persons of public importance, and at the same time admit a targeted group who can foot the bill. At some colleges, though, the number of legacies admitted is annually falling. As schools scramble to retain their positions in selectivity ratings, too many legacies in the door can indicate a drop in institutional standards.

In the calculus of Ivy League admissions, the one word summing up the ideal college recruiters and gatekeepers are shooting for is *diversity*. Princeton's dean of admissions, Mr Anthony Cummings, commenting on his own university's policies, may as well have spoken for the Ivy League in general. "Princeton," he said, "seeks to enrol a student body that will be characterized by both excellence and diversity. While the university is interested in many kinds of excellence, superior academic performance and significant promise for future academic growth must clearly be the fundamental considerations in evaluating candidates."

"But Princeton is no less interested in the personal credentials of its applicants and is particularly concerned to find evidence of such qualities of character as honesty and trustworthiness, which are so crucial to the health of a residential university."

"Beyond personal integrity," he continued, "the university is continually looking for clear indications of such important qualities as curiosity, imagination, energy, commitment, sensitivity, concern for others, leadership, and a sense of responsibility - qualities which clearly relate to academic as well as non-academic aspects of an applicant's potential performance at Princeton, but which are sometimes more easily perceived in the records of an applicant's non-academic pursuits."

An Ivy admissions officer will look through portfolios of art work, writing, music scores or listen to taped performances in addition to scrutinizing secondary school grades, standardized test scores and teacher references. The admissions staff seeks a well-rounded class, not necessarily a class of well-rounded students.

In their quest for diversity, admissions staff look for a mix of religious, ethnic, geographic, and in some ways, economic mix. The colleges want star athletes but they also want cheerleaders and spectators. Colleges are actively recruiting blacks, Asians and Mexican-Americans but are also digging deep to find "geos" - students raised on midwest farms and ranches or the rural backwoods of Vermont. This term, Harvard enrolled a young man who has never attended school. Grant Colfax, of Booneville, California, a rural community - not a suburb - about 100 miles north of San Francisco, was raised and educated by his parents and his goats.

"Mom and dad taught me English and math," he told reporters. "I learned about stuff like embryo transfer from the goats. Also economics. I breed baby goats and sell them for \$300 a piece."

Mr Colfax scored very well on the SAT and was accepted by both Harvard and Yale. His mother taught secondary school. English and his father, with a PhD from the University of Chicago, was teaching sociology at the University of Connecticut and Washington University.

Harvard has its admissions procedures down to a science. Like other colleges, final decisions come before an admissions committee, but long before that each applicant's essentials are data processed and a computerized prophecy of how well they will fare at Cambridge is assembled.

Tapping into a vast intelligence network of regional offices, alumni associations and student recruiters Harvard admissions staff go to great lengths to carefully handpick a group of students who will not let them down. "Seventy-eight per cent of the students who are admitted to Harvard," said one dean, "come here, which is more than any other university in the land. Since 98 per cent graduate, we must be doing something right to keep them here."

At Yale, where the ratio of students to teaching staff is low (Harvard is pegged at 1:11) the professorial play a major role in the admissions process. Teaching and admissions staff vote on who to admit using electronic Australian ballots. Switches marked to represent acceptance, rejection, and a deferred decision - a maybe for the following year - are shrouded by a black cloth. The ballots are then counted by hand.



hood, similar to a monk's cowl.

Among the Ivies, Cornell University and its admission policies is unique. The university has seven undergraduate colleges, each with its own admissions requirements and staff. Perhaps the most idyllic of the Ivies, landscape-wise, Cornell is extraordinary for its contract with the State of New York. Three of the undergraduate colleges are part of the state land-grant university system. Thus, a student can earn an Ivy diploma paying significantly lower public tuition rates. The admissions process and the state contract scheme are considered "a real advantage" to Cornell because admissions officials are "more thorough and sensitive" to the students' needs and the colleges' offerings, according to Mr Urban J. DeWinter, director of admissions for the College of Arts and Sciences.

The college applications differ according to the focus of the school. The College of Arts and Sciences application is similar to those of other Ivy universities, requiring students to submit a high school transcript, recommendations from teachers, essays, and standardized test scores.

While all of Cornell's schools require transcripts and recommendations, some of the additional requirements are far from traditional. The School of Industrial and Labor Relations, created by New York State in 1944 to promote the study of labour-management relations, requires applicants to write an essay on their interest in the field. All applicants to this school must also visit the campus and write an impromptu essay analyzing both sides of a current controversy.

Cornell's School of Hotel Administration, where students actually manage an on-campus hotel and restaurant, seeks applicants with demonstrated interest in the hospitality field. The College of Architecture, Art, and Planning examines students' portfolios before admitting students to its architecture and fine arts courses.

An important consideration for Cornell applicants is the cost of the college they seek to enter. Three undergraduate units - the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Human Ecology, and the School of Industrial and Labor Relations - are units operated by Cornell for the State University of New York. Students in these colleges receive a Cornell diploma, but pay significantly lower state university tuition rates.

Tuition for students in the statutory colleges this year is \$3,740 for New York State residents and \$6,050 for out-of-state students. Tuition in the private colleges is currently \$8,900. These figures do not include costs for room, housing, or personal expenses, which Cornell officials estimate to be more than \$4,000 for all students. These rates are leading more students to consider applying to the statutory colleges.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell's largest unit, each application is reviewed by a committee composed of one member of the professional admissions staff, an assistant dean from the college's academic advising staff, and two professors. After first deciding to admit the "truly outstanding" and eliminate those clearly unqualified, the admissions committee begins a more difficult task of reviewing all the borderline candidates.

Mr DeWinter said the high rate of acceptance among these applicants, called "legacies," is not just due to preferential treatment, but because "in large, children of alumni are going to be good students." These candidates must "still be competitive" but are more likely to be admitted.

"The single most important thing will be the applicant's record in school," he explained, noting that admissions committees look to see if the applicant took advantage of available opportunities. Essays are also useful because they show "imagination and spark" of some successful applicants.

In the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, admissions officials use different considerations. Since the state contributes so much to college funding, the college is expected to have 80 per cent of students from New York State, according to Mr Richard A. Church, the college's admissions director. The college "also feels an obligation to recruit students from farm families," Mr Church said. To this, the college works to combat preconceptions about Cornell being too "snobby" for rural students.

An area of growing concern in all of Cornell's colleges is the recruitment of minority students. For the past two years, the number of incoming black and Hispanic students has declined, prompting several protests by members of minority student groups at Cornell. A special subcommittee of the University's Board of Trustees recently studied the decline and recommended increased recruitment efforts to offset the drop.

At a recent rally on minority issues, several hundred students marched to the main administration building at Cornell and questioned university president Frank H. T. Rhodes on the issue when he came out to meet them. Mr Rhodes told the students that he thought minority enrolment would increase because of several recent changes in admissions strategy.

These changes include: increased recruitment efforts in inner-city areas, the involvement of minority alumni in recommending students, and the use of student phone-a-thons to contact prospective minority students to encourage them to complete their applications. Minority students expressed scepticism of Mr Rhodes' pledges and vowed to monitor efforts in these areas.

A far less controversial area of concern to admissions officials is athletics. Ivy League regulations prohibit athletic scholarships, but students and alumni watch league standings very closely. For several years, alumni have been demanding better recruitment of athletes.

In response to this concern, the administration created an athletic liaison for admissions, who works with coaches and admissions officials.

While coaches occasionally ask admissions officials to reconsider their decisions, "there is not a lot of new twisting," Mr Church said. The creation of the athletic liaison was called a "buffer" between coaches and admissions officials.

Applications from the children of alumni also present potentially delicate situations for admissions officials. Mr DeWinter said the high rate of acceptance among these applicants, called "legacies," is not just due to preferential treatment, but because "in large, children of alumni are going to be good students." These candidates must "still be competitive" but are more likely to be admitted.

Also contributing to this report are Scott Jacobik, chief editor of the Cornell Daily Sun and Michael Rhum, an anthropologist at Harvard University.

The women's reading room

Karen Gold visits the Fawcett Library, home of the famous feminist archive

It was called the Pankhurst Library, everyone would have heard of it. It would have banners and panache and its leaflets would be printed in purple and green.

But the Fawcett Library lives up to the respectable principles of its respectable suffragist namesake, Millicent Garrett Fawcett. No chains, no rilling, no household name.

Mrs Fawcett was the leader of the non-militant suffrage movement with considerably more grass-roots support than the colourful Pankhursts. The sister of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (and widow of Gladstone's postmaster general Henry Fawcett), she was the leading light of the London Society of Women's Suffrage, which was founded in 1867 and eventually took her name to become the Fawcett Society in 1953.

In the society's early years much of its efforts were directed at lobbying Parliament. Its offices were walking distance from Westminster, and stored extensive numbers of Parliamentary papers as well as briefing and other material.

It has always been based in London, although during the Second World War it was evacuated to St Anne's College, Oxford, for safe keeping. So when in the 1960s and 1970s the society began to look for a larger and more soundly financed institution to house it, the members turned down an offer from the university of East Anglia and opted for the suburban quarters of the City of London Polytechnic.

But the material that moved to the polytechnic in 1977 was considerably more than the briefing material of the original suffragists. During the First World War the society had expanded its interests to the new fields of work women were taking over from their brave boys overseas, and so built up a stock of information on women in industry and the professions, and legislation concerning women.

The society's library became a substantial lending library for members, and was renamed the Women's Service Library in 1926. It also began a habit of acquiring important private collections. The first two were other suffrage libraries: created as lending libraries by Ruth Cavendish-Bentley and Edward Wright. Then there was a collection donated by Lady Astor to the British Federation of University Women who didn't quite know what to do with it and so handed it on. And there is the Josephine Butler collection of letters, papers and books - everything from sanitary reports to the Kama Sutra - of the redoubtable Victorian campaigner.

In the 1930s the library moved to Mason Street and set up with a restaurant and little theatre. The Bohemian gesture attracted the attention of prominent literary women, many of whom added to its stocks. There is correspondence in some cases including letters of books from Virginia Woolf, Vera Brittain, Winifred Holtby, and also from T. S. Eliot, Thomas Hardy, and Hardy's second wife Florence, who had regularly to be persuaded to renew her library subscription because she feared the Fawcett was too radical. Philippa Strachey, sister of Lytton, was secretary of the society throughout these years.

But the subscription library was also fast becoming an archive. All the records of the society and other suffragist movements - though not the militant suffragettes - were being added there. In 1926, when the society changed its name, the library also changed perhaps its most important acquisition: Miss Vera Dowie, feminist, first librarian and hoarder extraordinaire.

Miss Dowie stayed 41 years, until collected so-called ephemeral postcards, letters, magazines, newspaper cuttings, anything in which women and their interests appeared. The Fawcett's holdings go back to the 1920s and include about women except for outstanding famous ones - Mrs Gandhi, the Queen - from *The Times* and *The Guardian* for the library every day.

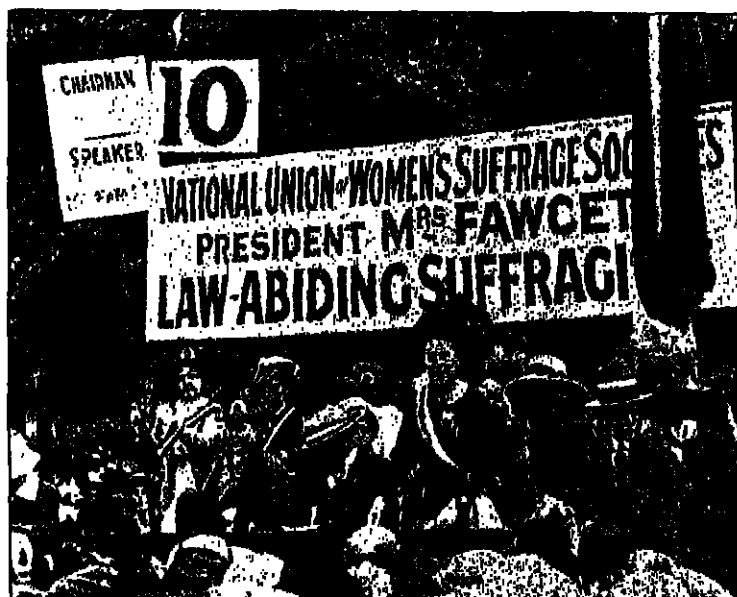
There is material on women's work in medicine, in education, and the ordination of women, and also on civil defence, and women's magazines. The collection is up to date.

There are acres of bibliographies; substantial sections on lady travellers; *A Woman's World Tour in a Motor*; *On Sledge and Horseback to Siberian Lepers* (1892) - a small collection on its emigration and women in the third world. The library, with the Equal Opportunities Commission, also publishes *Bibliofem*: a catalogue of the EOC and Fawcett libraries but also a catalogue of all United Kingdom books about women since 1950 and an international catalogue post-1968.

The other main areas of the collection are photographs, almost entirely twentieth century - letters and papers of suffragists and suffragettes and other famous women - Queen Victoria, Florence Nightingale, the Pankhursts, the Fawcetts, the Stracheys; the library recently acquired the papers of the first woman QC, Helena Normanton and it also has types. Following a grant from the (then) Social Science Research Council, a researcher re-



THE HISTORIC ARGUMENT
THE PRIMEVAL WOMAN - "Why can't I go out too and see the world?"
THE PRIMEVAL MAN - "Because you can't. Woman's proper sphere is the Cave."



after the stores of the feminine *Women and Beauty* come the feminist *Englishwoman's Journal* come copies of *Honey, Spare Rib* and *Woman's Own*. Similarly the books: a number of publishing houses donate relevant new books to the Fawcett, which is inevitably strapped for cash; all the feminist publishing houses donate a copy of everything they produce.

The library has more than 20,000 books, surpassing its collection of 20,000 pamphlets, over 600 periodicals and about 400 boxes of archive material.

There are first editions of the feminist Pantheon - two of Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* - and also of their little-known sisters: an Italian writer, first published around 1600 but here in a 1621 edition, telling of "the excellence of women and the failings of men".

There is Mrs Beeton's seventeenth century equivalent *Hannah Woolley*, as well as the lady of the household management herself. There is the *Young Ladies Book* detailing elegant recreations, and the beautifully-crafted book of the Guild of Women Bookbinders.

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corded interviews mainly with the children of women involved in the suffrage movement but also with some survivors.

The Fawcett is first and foremost a research library. According to Rita Pankhurst, the polytechnic librarian with the all-too-appropriate name acquired by marriage to Sylvia Pankhurst's son: "You scarcely open a book now that has been written as a research work in this area without finding a reference to the Fawcett."

The library has a more widespread impact too: City Polytechnic students use it free and there are women's studies sections in their modular courses. Inner London Education Authority A level students rub shoulders (there is not a lot of room) with well-known feminist activists and writers: The BBC series *Shoulder to Shoulder* was researched there.

Its catholicity extends further: it admits men. One even works there: assistant librarian David Doughan.

For similar reasons there are lectures put on by the Fawcett Library, and by the Feminists of the Fawcett. The polytechnic's policy for the library, unfulfilled because of money, is for it to be a national archive for women. It buys books about abortion, says Rita Pankhurst, but not only for those advocating it. Her picture of its future is for expansion to a more open community resource, while keeping the support of the academics, the feminist and the polytechnic alike (none of those categories are mutually exclusive).

"At present we are dealing with students fairly successfully. We're dealing with scholars a bit successfully because we haven't got the staff. And we're not dealing with the public and community education at all."

"I don't mean finding out who chained themselves to the railings - people can get that from public libraries. But there's no reason why we had the staff and the space we couldn't serve a multitude of different groups."

Maggie Richards looks at an Open University experiment in student support and counselling

Group study on a block booking

Six Open University students are gathered at the home of their tutor in Hackney, East London on a dismal autumn evening. For the six the event is merely a reunion, a welcome opportunity for reminiscences following completion of their first year of undergraduate study.

But to their tutor, and the OU senior counsellor for the area the occasion is far greater significance, symbolizing the success of their efforts over the past year to attract and sustain a number of working-class adults who otherwise most certainly would not have embarked on a course geared to degree level work.

For the tutor, Maurice Hindle, and OU senior counsellor Dr Ray Kennard, the students' reunion marks the climax of their ambition to introduce a little-tapped adult clientele to higher education.

Each of the students, now awaiting exam results at the end of the first year of foundation study, was initially classified as being in some way educationally disadvantaged - unemployed, disabled, or a single parent for instance. None, at the outset of the course, considered themselves to have the potential to follow a course of undergraduate study, yet each has succeeded in passing the OU's routine assignments for the course and most sustained a good average performance.

The key to their success, according to Hindle and Kennard, lies not only in the teaching method practised, but more fundamentally in the admissions procedure adopted. Instead of being enrolled to the OU as individuals, each of the six was admitted by a block booking system, which enabled the factors which prompted them to stray away from attempting the OU arts foundation course - despite the fact that the Fresh Start course had included an O level English component. Instead they selected D102, the OU's social science foundation programme.

Despite the failure earlier this year over allegations of Marxist bias in D102 material, the Tower Hamlets students were unanimous in declaring that their political attitudes had been unaffected by the course.

One student at the reunion commented: "I viewed all the political elements in a historical light. The course gave a simplified account of what has happened in our society. You then bring your own common sense and experience into play."

Another pointed out: "The course was not designed to make us into experts on the economy. Its purpose was to give us an insight into how society works on a social and an economic level."

Being part of a closely-knit group had been an essential feature of the course for each of the students. "We learned things not just from the course itself, but from one another. If you were struggling and had found something especially difficult it was helpful to get some encouragement from others in the group," explained one student.

For each of the six the crucial test of their new-found confidence will come during their next year of study, when they embark on their courses as individuals. Five have opted for the OU's arts foundation course as their next programme of learning. One has registered for the foundation course in technology.

Ideally, both Ray Kennard and Maurice Hindle would have liked to continue this project, taking the five students through the arts foundation course together, but the economic restraints imposed on the OU nationally have made this impossible.

How far the scheme will have succeeded in academic terms will not be clear for some time to come. In human terms its value had already been acknowledged by one of the students: "I have begun to realize there is an awful lot more to life than just bringing up a family. I cannot now envisage living a second life without education playing a part in it somewhere."

education through part-time tutoring for the Workers' Educational Association.

Their first task was to persuade the Fresh Start students that they were capable of following a course of study at undergraduate level. To assist the students it was agreed Maurice Hindle should continue as the course tutor and that the programme should remain based in the familiar surroundings of the Bethnal Green Institute.

Fourteen of the Fresh Start students initially expressed interest in following an OU degree course. By September last year, when a preparatory course was offered, nine women and one man enrolled. Personal commitments and financial considerations prompted the withdrawal of four of the remaining students before the beginning of the foundation programme in January this year.

Other members of the group, many of whom were dependent on supplementary benefit, were also harassed by the financial implications from the outset. With the OU's own hardship fund already exhausted they were compelled to wait for more than a month to discover whether their applications to the Inner London Education Authority for assistance had been successful.

If the financial aspect loomed as the largest practical difficulty in students' minds, it was the level of work they were about to undertake which most bothered them in an academic sense.

Recalling the moment when the idea of undergraduate study was first mentioned, one student at the reunion said: "Maurice Hindle asked what was wrong with going on to tackle an OU course. At the time it sounded too far fetched to be true."

Another recollected: "It all sounded very interesting, but I thought it would be way above my head. Initially I found it difficult to get used to the academic jargon - no one seemed to use everyday speech. The language was of a sort that I needed to look up in a dictionary."

Maurice Hindle and Ray Kennard had realized from the outset that one of the major problems their students would encounter would be a virtual linguistic barrier. It was one of the factors which prompted them to stray away from attempting the OU arts foundation course - despite the fact that the Fresh Start course had included an O level English component. Instead they selected D102, the OU's social science foundation programme.

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Want to learn the Spanish for cat (*gatto*)? Try imagining a cat eating a large gâteau. Move on to the word for beach (*playa*). Imagine sets of pliers strewn over a beach.

Linguists probably need read no further, if past reaction to a new teaching system devised by Mr Mike Grunenberg, lecturer in psychology at University College, Swansea, is anything to go by. But the system, which has now been applied to 10 different languages, is proving remarkably successful.

Mr Grunenberg has found that he can teach beginners a basic 400 words plus simple grammar, enabling them to get by on holiday or a business trip, in about 12 hours. That is less than a third of the average time for conventional teaching and sufficient to impress several computer software manufacturers.

Packages in the most popular languages are now available for most of the leading personal computers and the range is spreading rapidly to business machines. The French, Spanish, Greek, Italian, Russian, Dutch, Portuguese, Swedish and Hebrew. The last two have still to be programmed. The technique, being psychological rather than linguistic, can be applied to practically any language, but this will almost

certainly be his full list. He has spent three years producing 20 courses and wants a change.

The courses have all been produced with the aid of linguistic advisers, who have not always approved of the method at the outset. However, one doubter has become sufficiently convinced to introduce the system at a local school. The system was not designed for use in schools but has proved very popular with children.

Now Mr Grunenberg is hoping for a foothold in higher education through a seminar taking place at the Manchester Business School in February. The school already recommends the system to business people and uses it with some students. Dr Mike Woodhall, director of the language learning centre, who is running the seminar, said: "For some people it is a little silly, especially if they know anything of the language, but it has been very successful with others."

Not that Mr Grunenberg expects to win over

the academic establishment in the near future, although he has confounded some critics by proving that the system can be extended beyond the basic level. Second level courses covering more sophisticated grammar and a vocabulary of 1,200 words are being produced for publication next year.

That represents O level standard, although he is careful not to claim that they are O level courses. Tests have shown that high-ability students are able to complete a course in 40 hours, but the average may well turn out to be longer.

Mr Grunenberg sees no reason why the technique should not be developed to cope with further study beyond that and he enters natural hopes that he might have started a long-term revolution in languages teaching. "There is no one way to teach anything," he says. "There is no way that this is the answer to everyone's problem with languages, in the same way that I object to people who say that the only way of teaching language is by direct method. But I do regard the courses as a bit of a victory over the system."

John O'Leary

Putting the past into words

Lynne Truss looks at former documentary film-maker Stephen Peet's contribution to the development of television oral history



Stephen Peet: deviser and producer of the critically acclaimed BBC documentary series, *Yesterday's Witness*

I was always appointed as orderly, which meant I rode behind the Lieutenant - Lieutenant Hudson, a nice chap from down in Kent somewhere. And he being an officer, he used to get stuff we couldn't get, and that sort of thing you see. And as he went along he ate his potted meat, probably scooping it out with his finger you see or something of that sort. Well, when he'd got a little bit left in the bottom he'd shout out "Bowers" and I'd tickle my horse and go up alongside and he'd hand me the rest of his potted meat you see, so I'd drop back into my proper place and I'd play about with my finger and I'd have what little bit he'd left.

Mr A. D. Bowers, a man in his nineties, recounts his memories of the Boer war for a television audience. His blazer festooned with medals, he sits in his own living room and tells his story direct to camera, apparently with little pause. His words are illustrated by maps and drawings. The subject and the style could easily give away the context in which he appears: the BBC *Yesterday's Witness* series, which ran to critical acclaim between 1969 and 1990.

Yesterday's Witness was devised and produced by Stephen Peet, who also personally directed about half the 80 films that were made. Because for each film he did his own research and interviewing, Peet accumulated over the 12 years a large amount of resource material - material which he is now putting to good use. Since his retirement from the BBC in 1980 he has become a freelance lecturer visiting colleges and universities to present workshops on "television oral history" to students of history, social science and the media.

Part of the appeal of *Yesterday's Witness*, both to audiences and to the BBC, was the simplicity of the idea. Peet, a documentary-maker of long standing, was at the BBC in the late 1960s making television films in which well-known interviewees talked to famous old people about their lives. One of his jobs was to tell nine hours of conversation between Malcolm Muggeridge and Lord Rell - which he did so skilfully that commentators praised Muggeridge for his new-found ability to get straight to the point.

Peet reacted against those programmes. "I put forward a suggestion that I should start a series of films consisting of stories - but within living memory - to be told by ordinary people. There should be no interviewers. Moreover, such films should be very inexpensive,

to make. That last phrase did the trick."

Subjects for treatment immediately suggested themselves: the pioneering days of aviation or the film industry, a Cornish mining disaster, or a famous school strike. Once the series was under way suggestions came in from viewers as well as from colleagues in television. It was an idea from a BBC producer in Norwich that prompted Peet to make *Zeppelin over England*, a film which he used as the focus of a workshop he gave recently at the British Universities Film and Video Council.

The film tells the story of the world's first-ever air raid: when German zeppelins dropped bombs on East Anglia in 1915. Peet described his research for the film, locating people who had seen and heard the bombings, or who had been neighbours of the first casualties. He found British pilots who had attempted to destroy the enemy ships; and a zeppelin pilot who remembered the fear of being trapped in searchlights.

The zeppelin threat was a key one in the propaganda war, so there was plenty of contemporary press coverage to use (headlines ranged about "The Baby-Killers in the Skies") and the event of the first shooting down of a zeppelin was covered by newsreels. Peet managed to trace a man who had been a pall-bearer at the funeral of the German crew killed by his voice over the newscast in the finished film.

The crucial element of the programme is undoubtedly the quality of the interview material. "The most important thing was the oral testimony of the old people themselves. These were their stories, they'd captured the with-

them - and it was up to me to present those stories in the best and most honest way possible."

One of the most interesting aspects of Peet's workshop was its demonstration that finding the good stories was only the beginning. Using "rushes" he showed how the interviews proceeded. Peet, awkwardly jammed under the camera lens so that in talking to him the subjects seemed to talk straight into the camera, could be heard encouraging the people to tell the stories he knew they had to tell and prompting them when they strayed from the point. He would sometimes ask them to expand on their answers or repeat sections if he anticipated editing problems, but as part of his overall concern for them to be as comfortable as possible, he never instructed them on how to present their stories. "It would be turning them into actors and that wouldn't be fair. They had enough to think about."

The editing process was also interestingly explained. Because in Peet's films the interview was neither seen nor heard, jumps in the film couldn't be disguised by inserting shots of him nodding assent. As it was often necessary to put together sections from different parts of the interviews, other editing methods had to be used. Peet demonstrated how the introduction of pictures could cover gaps, as could the time-honoured technique of cutting between close-ups and wider shots.

Apart from the zeppelins material, Peet has made several other complete, rough and finished film documentaries on different aspects of making "oral history" television. For more information contact him at his home, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

How hippies got hooked on trout fishing in America

The American novelist, poet and fictionist Richard Brautigan died at the end of last month aged 49. Brautigan was born in Tacoma, Washington and like his exact contemporary Ken Kesey did much to reopen the American hinterland to the literary imagination. Brautigan's last-but-one book, *The Tokyo-Montana Express* consisted of 133 prose miniatures, a kaleidoscopic journey round America in a style and with a philosophy borrowed from the Orient, though nonetheless purely American for that.

Brautigan's "zen" prose did much to endear him, along with Kurt Vonnegut, Kesey and Ursula Le Guin, to the hippy generation of the late 1960s and early 1970s. In more recent years, his reputation (which was always cultic rather than critically "serious") declined rapidly and he suffered increasingly from depression and alcohol dependency.

Brautigan had always been a highly literary author but his interest in genre soon lapsed into a kind of formula writing, books rather archly subtitled "An Historical Romance", "A Perverse Mystery", "A Gothic Western", "A Japanese Novel", "A Private Eye Novel". He relied more and more on pastiche.

As with many popular writers, his success became a barrier to understanding. Only Tony Tanner in England and Marc Chénier in France gave him extended attention. The majority of critics mistook his economy of means and minimal style for slowness, his humour and playfulness for irresponsibility. In reality, his books are particularly sombre, centring on decay, disfigurement and violence. His third novel, the pastoral *In Watermelon Sugar* takes place in the imaginary space of "IDEATH".

One of Brautigan's many dreamlands where the imagination is the only reality and selfhood, society and history irrelevant. While he never directly engaged the large-scale social and moral issues or the wider historical canvas of the conventional novel, he nevertheless managed to explore some of the most profound modern themes by a kind of lyrical and metaphorical compression more readily associated with poetry than prose.

Brautigan's best novel is almost certainly his second, *Trout Fishing in America*, published in 1967. It was dedicated to the poet and printer Ron Loewinohn and echoes Loewinohn's interest in typography and the visual properties of text. The words of the title, in a rough typewritten face like the rest of the book, do not appear as normal across the page but in a long, looping curve that mimics the bend of rod and line.

Brautigan appears on the front cover - as on all his books - with a woman friend, posing before a statue of Benjamin Franklin, father of American pragmatism. *Trout Fishing in America* poses as a "how-to" book: a manual or guide, but immediately disorients the reader into an imaginary world where the trout are not fish but flowers and dark flies pressed against the windowpane.

The words "trout fishing in America" become the central character (the novelist William Gass, whom Brautigan admired, had redefined character in fiction not as an echo of actual persons or types but as a "centre of linguistic energy"); "trout fishing in America" is anything Brautigan chooses to make it and he uses a whole range of associations to make ironic points about American society and literature (references to Herman Melville and fishing provide a context for a sideways comment on the burgeoning economic-metaphysical pursuits of *Moby Dick*).

The book is headed with a puzzling epigraph that gives an ideal insight into Brautigan's method: "There are seductions that should be in the Smithsonian Institution, right next to the 'Spirit of St Louis'." Though interpretation is the most dangerous seduction of all, the short passage provides a clue to Brautigan's themes.

He invokes the aviator Charles Lindbergh as the archetypal American hero, an explorer and pioneer; yet Lindbergh was also a Nazi fellow-traveller (Hitler appears in the novel in the guise of a pastoral shepherd) and Lindbergh's name is also inextricably bound up with another of Brautigan's obsessions, the seduction and betrayal of innocence. The kidnapping and murder of the "Lindbergh baby" was one of the great criminal scandals of the 1930s.

The mix of pastoral and violence and the association of "heroic" adventure with totalitarianism and war underlines Brautigan's distinction between the economic greed and Dick-and-the-lizard journeying he proposes as a saving alternative. Brautigan has no time for museums or institutions (the image of Lindbergh's plane suspended from the Smithsonian ceiling is sufficiently absurd); yet he sought to capture his country and fix it in the imagination in the words of his last book *So the Wind Won't Blow It All Away*.

Coming as it did on the brink of Ronald Reagan's second term, Brautigan's death comes less as a reminder that the hippies of Haight-Ashbury have grown old or that the celebrated "greening" of America has become a little parched. Vietnam and Watergate soured the vision long ago. What does neatly symbolize is the dominance of a rigid moral earnestness, nothing to do with right or left, that has swept the west.

In 1922 Scott Fitzgerald ended *The Great Gatsby* with an image of the American "capacity for wonder" and "always out of reach. Brautigan was not impelled by Gatsby's green light; he was prepared to look back at a mind more purely imaginative: "I thought to myself what a lovely old trout fishing in America would make with a stroke of green trees along the river's shore, wild flowers and dark flies pressed against the windowpane."

Brian Morton

John Rule looks at the increasing interest of historians in attitudes to the law and to protesters

In increasing numbers, historians have turned to crime. As a subject of interest it has come to the fore in most periods and in several countries: a chronological and geographical span which can hardly be conveyed in a single article. We will confine our attention to the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, a period in which some of the most significant and interesting work has concentrated. A major stimulus was the publication in 1975 of the symposium *Albion's Fatal Tree*, the work of a group of historians who had worked with E. P. Thompson at the University of Warwick and who shared a socialist perspective.

The challenge issued by this book lay in the raising of wide issues: popular attitudes to the law and to criminal behaviour; the nature of authority in eighteenth century England and the use of the law not only as an instrument of class rule, but also with great subtlety as a justifying ideology for hegemony.

Most early research had concentrated on the development of the criminal law, a magisterial history of which Sir Leon Radzinowicz appeared between 1948 and 1969. Less serious historians built on the image of Tyburn Tree, the bloody pages of the *Newgate Calendar* and upon the folklore surrounding such hero-villains as Dick Turpin, Jack Shepherd and Jonathan Wild to reach a wider public while academic historians kept aloof. Around 15 years ago articles based on the analysis of criminal statistics began to signify a change of direction in which John Beattie was prominent. Statistics of crime are notoriously difficult to use. The "dark figure" of real crime levels as opposed to crimes known to the police is so unknowable as to lead several modern sociologists to conclude there is little value in official figures. Historians work even further away from the "real" level, for they do not have until the mid-eighteenth century a record of crimes reported and get no closer than official figures of persons indicted at higher courts. The largest grouping of all, the offences usually labelled "petty

And that one said he was **STUPID** crime, if you please... well I hope this will be a lesson to him.



Turning to crime

crime" was increasingly dealt with by the summary jurisdiction of magistrates, and this "squire's" justice has left only a sparse and patchy documentation.

Historians approach the analysis of criminal statistics with considerable trepidation and with that attentive disbelief which is the characteristic of their profession. The absence of a professional police and the very considerable area of discretion in prosecution procedures might be expected to have produced marked regional variations in recorded crime. Yet work which has been done on several coun-

ties for which good assize and quarter sessions records survive, among them Surrey, Sussex, Essex and Somerset, suggests that national trends can be discovered.

Broadly a declining incidence of crimes against property continued from the late seventeenth century through to the closing decades of the eighteenth, when statistical evidence points to a significantly increasing crime rate gathering pace into the first half of the nineteenth century which cannot be explained in terms of differences in either inclination to prosecute or in better recording or more efficient

policing. Historians have naturally sought to explain this increase by relating criminal to other indices - social and economic indices.

Such relationships are the subject of fierce controversy. These years saw rapid population growth, increasing urbanization and the onset of those changes usually shorthanded the "industrial revolution". The increase in recorded crime was, however, as much evident in rural as in urban districts and here, given the widespread and desperate poverty of agricultural labourers in the southern and eastern counties, simple poverty and hunger

offer the starting point for the investigation of motive. Within the broad trend shorter statistical movements can be related to food crises, like those of 1794/96 and 1800/01. Bad harvests with consequent high prices and shortages became more common and more severe after the mid-eighteenth century.

Wars played a part bringing unemployment to some trades, causing dislocation and with their ending throwing by demobilization large numbers of unsupported men onto the labour market. Some crime peaks seem linked to the ending of wars, especially the great French War which lasted from 1793 to 1814. Close analysis reveals other things. Where analysts have discovered then it seems that then as now a wholly disproportionate amount of indicted crime was accounted for by the young males from their teens through to their early twenties. Investigations concentrated on particular crimes sometimes reveal that the level of commitals was affected by "moral panics" similar to that of the 1960s over mugging.

Problems of definition are as troublesome as those posed by measurement. Historians should presumably concern themselves with what contemporaries considered "criminal", for both law and moral opinion change over time. But not all contemporaries agreed with those who made the criminal law - hardly surprising when the legislature was limited to the properties of the class. A notion of "social" crime is necessary to make sense of much activity outside the law. Poachers, smugglers and wreckers, like the distillers of illicit spirits did not normally think of themselves as criminals, nor were they so regarded by the communities in which they operated.

Such divergences from "official" views increased with the redefinitions of property characteristic of the period. Consider, for example, how enclosure might affect a village. Yeas would acquire a new meaning, fuel gathering from the common would become hedge-breaking or wood stealing (the common rural offence, well ahead of poaching) while the new type of efficient and cost-conscious farmer refused to allow the age-old right of gleaners after harvest. In manufacturing the change from the independent craftsman to the out-worker who made up the materials "put-out" to him by a capitalist was reflected in a number of new laws defining and punishing the embezzlement of materials and in so doing clashing head on with workers' claims of perquisite. Oliver Goldsmith anticipated modern sociology in his interactive analysis of the growth of crime against property and of the expansion of capital punishment to control it: "penal laws which are in the hands of the rich are laid upon the poor... and as if our possessions were to become dearer in proportion as they increased, as if the more enormous our wealth, the more extensive our fears, our possessions are paled up with new edicts every day, and hung around with gibbets to scare every invader."

The astonishing increase in the use of capital punishment for property offences from around 50 to 200 between 1688 and 1820 produced the bloodiest penal code in our history. Some historians take a soft line by emphasizing that in practice only about a third of those sentenced to hang actually did so. It is a superficial view. Those that were pardoned were transported not imprisoned and the subtlety of the use of the penal code by the ruling class should not be underestimated. The power to pardon, or rather to secure a pardon, was as much a part of their power as was that to hang.

Douglas Hay has shown how the pardoning process was integral to the exercising of authority of the assize with its scarlet-robed and black-capped judges was the essential "theatre" of the law. Historians have found that the circumstances which favoured pardon: previous good character and mitigating circumstances were much as they were later, but undoubtedly the gallows underpinned the exercise of authority in eighteenth century England. Capital sentencing is no less an expression of the power of some men over many others because it adopts an exemplary mode needing occasional rather than constant executions. "Jehui" exclaims one of Henry Fielding's characters, "would you commit two persons to bridewell for a twig?" "Yes," came the reply, "and with great lenity too; for it was called a twig tree they would have been both hanged."

The author is lecturer in history at the University of Southampton.



repealed, and the men had not struck work. They had used no violence nor implied any intent to intimidate. In fact the local magistracy and the judiciary - the role of the Home Office is uncertain - found a way to prosecute them for administering a secret oath under an act of 1797 which had been rushed onto the statute book to deal with a naval mutiny. Neither contemporaries nor historians have doubted that their real crime was simply to form a union.

Prosecution of trade unions was also possible under the Master and Servant Act of 1823 which allowed imprisonment for breach of contract and was a serious inhibition on strike action. This act following trade union agitation was modified in 1867. Shortly after came the Trade Union

Act of 1871 with an amendment in the same year to the criminal law and in 1875 to the law on conspiracy and the protection of property. Trade unions now had a secure legal status and the right of peaceful picketing. The Employers and Workmen Act of 1875 made both sides equal parties to a civil contract and ended the availability of the criminal law as a weapon against workers in dispute. By the third quarter of the last century trade unions were beginning to operate in a recognizably modern legal context. At the present time we wait to see how far a government with an evident anti-union bias will succeed in putting back the legislative clock.

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Martyrs to the cause of trade unionism

Historians of rural society, notably Roger Wells and David Jones, have recently stressed that much crime in the countryside was essentially a form of protest. Rick-burnings, the destruction of hedges and even some cases of sheep stealing can be shown to have been the work of a discontented rural proletariat against oppressors identified among the farmers and landlords. Outbreaks like the famous "Captain Swing" riots of 1830/31 were exceptional. For the most part the bitterness of desperate poor and underemployed farm labourers given their isolation and powerless position could find expression only in covert nocturnal actions.

Crime as a protest naturally leads to the consideration of protest as crime. This year has seen the 150th anniversary of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. The transportation of the six "horrid" labourers for the "crime" of forming a union is the best known episode in the history of English trade unionism. Authority has always had the power to treat protest as crime wherever riot, violence or damage to property take place, but what is unusual about trade unionism is that the law from time to time has sought to make its existence illegal or else to especially circumscribe its permitted activities. The best known period of legal repression of the unions was from 1799 to 1824 when the Combination Laws were in force.

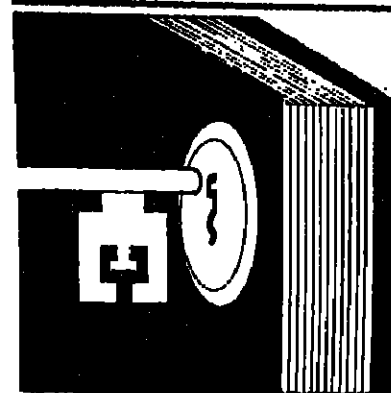
During this quarter of a century to take collective action to defend or improve wage levels or hours of work was in itself illegal. Modern historians for the most part agree that these laws were not so much used as they were feared. The powerful cart societies in London and other towns from which skilled labour groups often effectively excluded "foreign" workers were too well-organized to be intimidated by the laws.

to suffer much inconvenience from the law. In the newer industrial areas of the north and midlands groups like textile workers certainly felt and remembered the era as one of oppression and of secret meetings on the moors at night.

In fact the Combination Acts hardly made illegal what had not effectively been so before. There were several legal ways open to employers or authorities who wanted to move against troublesome combinations of labour. Clauses of an Elizabethan statute allowed prosecution of journeymen who left work unfinished, while in several trades specific statutes had been passed prohibiting unionism. This was, for example, the case in tailoring from an act of 1721, in woollen weaving and combing from one in 1726 and in hat manufacture from 1777. Most importantly there was the common law of conspiracy which was used before, through and after the era of the combination laws.

By combining to strike, workers made themselves liable to be prosecuted for conspiracy. A famous judgment of 1721 against the journeymen tailors of Cambridge declared: "It is not for refusing to work, but for conspiracy that they are indicted, and a conspiracy of any kind is illegal." Similarly giving judgment against some leaders of the London printers in a dispute of 1798, the Recorder held that for men to meet to plan injury to another, he their employer, had "at all times been considered by the law of this country as a very heinous crime". He pointed out that even had the objectives of the union been justified, a strike could not be otherwise construed than as a conspiracy "supposing any one of them to have acted in concert with the others, the crime is made out against them."

The Tolpuddle incident is a useful reminder of the powers within the law which could be used against trade unions. Ten years' half-past



Arthur Marwick reassesses E. H. Carr's best-selling *What is History?*

In pursuit of the past

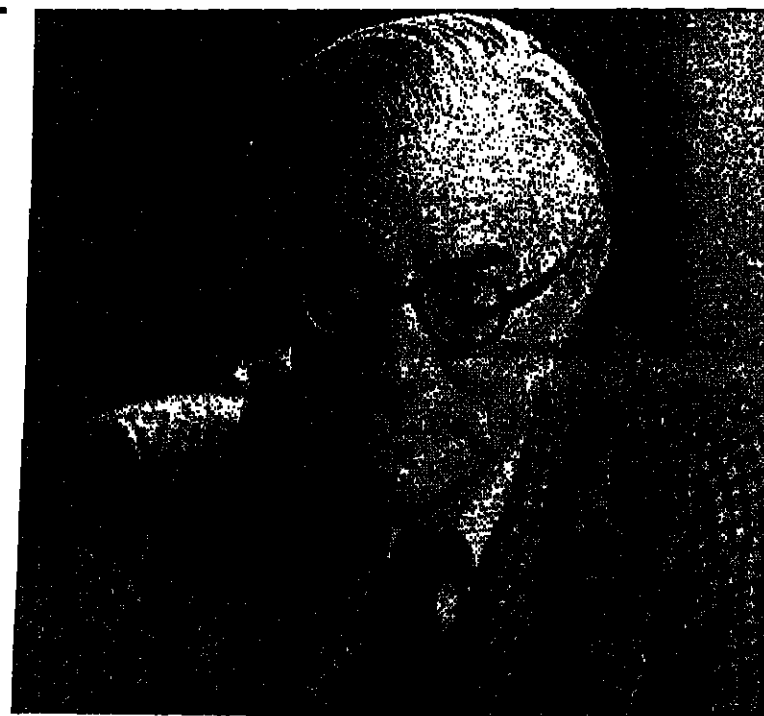
In the wake of the paperback revolution and the market pressure exerted on the publishing industry by course lists and required reading handouts in schools and colleges, certain books attain a kind of canonical status that very often reflects little of the content.

This week and for the next fortnight *The THES* will be reassessing three books which have exerted a special influence.

Over the next two weeks, Dominick Harrod will be looking at John Kenneth Galbraith's *The Affluent Society*, Boris Ford at F. R. Leavis's *The Great Tradition*.

philosophers. Carr appeared to have the last word, criticising other historians for their pragmatism and conservatism and affirming that history did indeed have a meaning and an immediate relevance to contemporary problems.

Glad to be spared the distasteful task of themselves analysing their own subject (the conventional wisdom was that you learned what history was by doing it, not by talking about it), history lecturers happily recom-



E. H. Carr: his name became synonymous with his subject

mended *What is History?* an ancillary reading. Sales were swollen by a wider public always ready to welcome one short key work which tells all. The Pelican has been reprinted 17 times, selling now at a still modest £1.75.

Most of the points which stick in the minds of students are made in the course of the first two lectures which together form a remarkable tissue of banalities (though, to be fair, banalities which probably need to be uttered and repeated for every cohort of students) and absurdities.

The target Carr sets up is that of positivist historians who are alleged to be concerned only with the accumulation of facts. History, he reassures us is not about facts, but the interpretations of facts. Interpretations depend upon the prior predilections of the historian; hence the injunction: "study the historian before you begin to study the facts."

Historians anyway are captives of their own society and will interpret the past in accordance with the preoccupations and assumptions of that society; history is "an unending dialogue between the present and the past".

Buried in lecture two there is actually the classic defence of tradition historical writing, though Carr makes little of it: "The historian who is most conscious of his own situation is also more capable of transcending it."

Now for the nonsense. Carr attempts to develop a distinction between mere facts and historical facts. If nothing else (well let's face it, there is nothing else) this forms the basis for a few anecdotes and the famous metaphor about facts having to be proposed, seconded and sponsored for membership of the select club of historical facts.

Carr is trying to make the case that since no historian can possibly incorporate all ascertainable facts, historical facts do not exist until the historian has exercised an act of interpretation. This misconception (even I know many quite definitively established historical facts I have not yet managed to incorporate in any of my writings, though I might well do in the future) is connected to Carr's assertion that facts form the "raw material" of history. If this metaphor has any applicability, it must be not to facts, which do not actually sit there waiting to be proposed or rejected, but to the primary sources from which historians both produce their facts and their interpretations.

Carr pays no heed at all to the technical problems of teasing out facts and interpretations: between facts from sources of all descriptions, surely the essential professional skill of the historian? Indeed, on this point he commits one of the defects of all of his utterances: "No document can tell us more than what the author of the document thought - what he thought had happened, what he thought ought to happen or would happen, or perhaps even what he wanted others to think he thought or even only what he himself thought he thought". (This sentence never comes out of account all the evidence of unspoken

assumptions, shared values etc, which is so useful to historians. But then Carr was a classicist, a diplomat who had moved from one establishment post to another, without ever acquiring any serious training in historical method.

Despite the saving clause already quoted, Carr insists that the historian has to use words whose contemporary loadings he cannot shed, democracy, empire, war, revolution. The question of historical semantics and of the way in which historians should try to understand words as contemporaries understood them is a vital one.

Carr professes to feed his audience yet another jest: ancient historians "cannot cheat themselves into the past by using unfamiliar or obsolete words, any more than they would become better Greek or Roman historians if they delivered their lectures in a *chlamys* or a *toga*". Carr identifies the hopeless choice which exists between a total reverence for facts and a complete acceptance of the historian's subjectivity; but he does not say "choice", and we end Chapter One "navigating delicately between the Scylla of an untenable theory of history as an objective compilation of facts... and the Charybdis of an equally untenable theory of history as a subjective product of the mind of the historian...".

In this, and in the concluding lecture, Carr presents an optimistic picture of history as progress, culminating in the twentieth century revolution which has allegedly extended a new consciousness and life-enhancement to peoples throughout the world.

The most significant of twentieth century developments, we are told, have been "the development and use of modern methods of persuasion and indoctrination". Astonishingly, Carr approves of these as part of "the power of man to improve the management of his social, economic, and political affairs by the application of rational processes".

It was a muddled upper-class socialist, emotionally attached not just to Marxism but to Leninism. The urge to express his credo was laudable, but unfortunately he called it "What is History?" Hence the mystical junk about past, present and future, being "linked together in the endless chain of history" which, unfortunately, has been taken up even by such sober historiographers as Ernst Breisch.

But I doubt if Carr has done students much harm: virtue poisons (such as Philip Abrams or the Birmingham cultural studies school) have written more intellectually challenging books. Anyway, Carr did say some sensible things (though usually proceeding to ignore or contradict them) as in "I propose... to reserve the word 'history' for the process of inquiry into the past of man in society".

Quite certainly, the continued pursuit of that inquiry is absolutely critical for our present. And two points are central in understanding the nature of historical inquiry: the methods by which sources of all types are analysed, criticized, and interpreted; and the character, value, and limits of theory in historical interpretation. Carr was silent on both points: *What is History?* is a classic instance of a book sold almost entirely on the basis of its title alone.

Lecture three is entitled, "History, science and morality" and it is claimed that it will provide "a convenient

introduction to the problems of method in history". Actually, one could read this book from cover to cover hundreds of times without ever gaining the faintest clue as to what historians with articles to write, or even lectures to prepare, actually do. The discussion of history and science is indeed sensible, suggesting both that there is a common intellectual endeavour, and that there is no point in concealing that in detail historians do rather different things from scientists.

But Carr's main purpose is to develop the point that social scientists (among whom he includes historians) cannot stand objectively apart from the material which they study. Again, without apparently fully realizing it, he indicates the defence which the empirical historian would make: "the serious historian is the one who recognizes the historically-conditioned character of all values... the beliefs which we hold and the standards of judgment which we set up are part of history, and are as much subject to historical investigation as any other aspects of human behaviour."

The next lecture insists from the start that "the study of history is a study of causes". This is the only identifiable idiosyncrasy which Carr shares with Geoffrey Elton. It may be that in studying the social consequences of wars one is studying war as causation; but the more serious problem one has is in demonstrating that the consequences exist in the first place, just as studying the Renaissance depends heavily upon showing, not causes, but that something that can be called a Renaissance actually happened.

But Carr's main concern is with the relationship between what he calls "rational" and "accidental" causes. He admits the existence of accidental causes but argues that since "quoted, Carr insists that the historian has to use words whose contemporary loadings he cannot shed, democracy, empire, war, revolution. The question of historical semantics and of the way in which historians should try to understand words as contemporaries understood them is a vital one."

Here we have really arrived at the fundamental flaw in Carr's discussion. The flaw goes deeper in the next lecture on "History as progress" where he defines objectivity as meaning that the historian "has the capacity to project his vision into the future in such a way as to give him a more profound and more lasting insight into the past than can be attained by those historians whose outlook is entirely bounded by their own immediate situation".

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This author is dean and director of studies of arts at the Open University.

Unsung hero of an ephemeral art

Philip Conford profiles A. R. Orage, an 'artist in literary encouragement'

Despite his influence on English literature and political ideas during the first half of this century, the name of A. R. Orage is familiar to few people today. The apogee of Philip Mairet's description of him as "a great artist in literary encouragement" can be shown by being some of the writers whose first published works appeared in Orage's weekly journal *The New Age*. They include Katherine Mansfield, John Middleton Murry, Herbert Read, T. E. Hulme and Edwin Muir; and the fact that their reputations now greatly overshadow Orage's can be seen as a tribute to his perceptive recognition and wise guidance of literary talent.

Orage's own ability as a writer was gained by T. S. Eliot, who considered him to be among the two or three best contemporary critics. Unfortunately, as journalism is an ephemeral art, his pseudonymous essays in *The New Age* are now accessible only with difficulty, though a selection of them, edited by the Orage scholar Wallace Martin, remains in print to give us some appreciation of his strengths.

His conversation and debate, however, are almost entirely lost to us. Various associates have written of his brilliance as a talker, but no Boswell was present at the Chancery Lane ABC to record the discussions which took place regularly there over afternoon tea. Orage had a flair for drawing out other speakers, summarizing ideas and demonstrating their implications, provoking further explanations and ensuring that a group of voluble talkers kept to the point.

His approach as editor of *The New Age* was similar. He provided a forum in which writers of various political and aesthetic persuasions could do battle; he used his own articles to stimulate debate and indicate lines of thought he was accessible to contribution and would discuss their writing in generous detail.

In addition to the names already mentioned Orage published work by many distinguished writers, including Shaw, Wells, Belloc, Chesterton, Pound, Bennett, Aldington, Wyndham Lewis, G. D. H. Cole, Sidney Webb and Edward Carpenter. Perhaps the greatest indication of his editorial mastery is that so many contributors were prepared to write for him without payment.

Universities advertise their degree schemes in attractive and persuasive prospectuses, but as is the case with so many advertisements, these omit certain details of which the consumer ought to be aware.

When comparing universities, the prospective student will wish to consider such factors as the course content, the social environment, the amenities and accommodation and, importantly, the chances of gaining a good degree. On the first four of these the prospective student will have much to say. On the last it will not be forthcoming.

A "good" degree is sometimes defined as at least an upper second classification. The prospect of achieving this is by no means uniform across different universities. This is a matter of some importance, not only to prospective students but also to employers, parents, careers teachers and the research bodies.

The criterion stipulated for entry into many graduate careers is that the applicant should have a "good" degree, or certain civil service jobs. We may also expect other employers to more readily employ graduates with these good degree classifications. The Economic and Social Research Council of Arts and Sciences and Engineering Research Council will only consider financial support to graduates who have achieved this same standard.

Likewise certain occupations have starting salary scales which are conditioned by the classification of degree obtained.

For all these reasons the prospect of obtaining a "good" degree is of widespread interest. Moreover, there should be grave concern if the standard employed by each university in awarding the degree was not strictly comparable. The findings of some recent research have come to doubt this.

The giver of opportunities to others, Orage was only able to develop his talents as the result of an opportunity he himself had been given. His promise had been recognized by his Sunday School teacher, Howard Coote, son of the squire in Orage's boyhood village of Fontston, Cambridgeshire. The Cootes enabled him to enter training college and escape the fate of a farm labourer.

In 1893, aged 20, he started teaching at a board school in Leeds. Influenced by hearing Tom Mann, he joined the Independent Labour Party; modelling himself on Socrates, he became a highly-skilled debater in the socialist cause. But he was never a dogmatic materialist, and he also joined the Theosophical Society. This tension between the demands of politics and the demands of the spirit was always to remain with him.

Orage made two important friendships in Leeds. One was with Holbrook Jackson, author of *The Eighteen-Nineties*, a Fabian with London contacts, who introduced him to the works of Nietzsche. The other was A. J. Penty, an architect who was interested in the effects of industrialism on art and craft skills.

In 1902 they founded the Leeds Art Club, a discussion group where not only the arts, but philosophy and politics were debated. Orage's work for the club stimulated his ambitions and in 1905 he left teaching to take his chances in London as a freelance journalist. Penty had preceded him and Jackson soon joined them.

In 1907 *The New Age*, a failing independent journal, came up for sale. With the support of Shaw, Orage was able to buy it and create the platform which he, Jackson and Penty had always wanted. They still had links with the Fabians, but submitted the journal *An Independent Socialist Review* and were soon attacking the Fabians' obsession with statistics. Following various disagreements with his fellow editors over the policy, Orage took sole charge at the end of the year.

The pre-war period was that of Orage's greatest success. *The New Age* was filled with lively debate on the literary and political topics of the day: Wells and Shaw took to Belloc and Chesterton; Arnold Bennett spread awareness of European writing;



A. R. Orage: by buying *The New Age*, he was able to create the platform he wanted

Hulme and Sickert clashed over modern painters; Bergson and psychoanalysis were discussed; Marinetti expounded his aesthetics. Politically the journal demonstrated its independence by attacking the collaboration of Labour MPs with Liberal policies, and the collectivist trends of state socialism. The preferred alternative was guild socialism, a philosophy influenced by syndicalism and Penty's ideas about mass production.

It was a form of socialism which attracted the support of Bertrand Russell and William Temple, and had G. D. H. Cole and R. H. Tawney as its most noted advocates, but it failed to prevent the growing influence of the Fabians. The national guilds movement was wrecked in 1920 by its pro-Bolshevik members, though by this time Orage had already lost faith in it.

The ideas of Major C. H. Douglas, exponent of Social Credit, were one reason for this disillusionment; the other was Orage's belief that guild socialism could only work in a society which accepted a religious view of life. His mystical side asserted itself, and

in 1922 he abandoned *The New Age*, in his own words "in order to find God". Orage was influenced by Cuspenky - a pre-war acquaintance called in London since the Bolshevik revolution - and then by Cuspenky's master, Gurdjieff. Orage studied under Gurdjieff at Fontainebleau, then went to the United States to spread his ideas. It was a long period of philosophical self-renewal, which ended in 1931 with his return to London, a stronger, more integrated man, who was ready to reenter political journalism.

The product of his revived commitment was *The New English Weekly*, which first appeared in April 1932. Although disappointed by London's literary climate in comparison with 20 years earlier, Orage used the journal to cultivate interests similar to those of the pre-war *New Age*. But his main purpose was to advocate social credit, which is the years of the Depression he believed more important than ever. The last act of his life as a journalist was to give a broadcast talk on Douglas's ideas.

Social Credit never attracted support from any noted economist, and guild socialism, whatever its interests as a



Edwin Muir: encouraged



T. S. Eliot: praised Orage

theory, failed to have more than a marginal effect on Labour Party policy. But although Orage's greater importance lies in the sphere of the arts, his concern for political and economic issues cannot be separated from his other achievements.

As editor of *The New Age* he was seeking to show the relationships between the different cultural activities - in the widest sense - of his society, and analyse their shared presuppositions. Like his contemporary Penty, with whose *Cahiers The New Age* has some affinities, he believed that revolution had to be spiritual as well as material. People's art and economics could not be considered independently of each other.

His aim of gathering together the various cultural threads of his time in order to bring about social change may have been too ambitious, but it none the less took a remarkable man to succeed in providing a neutral ground on which many of the outstanding intellects of pre-1914 England could share their concern.

The author teaches English at Chichester College of Technology.

An advertisement for success . . .

What is a good degree and what are the chances of getting one? Malcolm Bee and Peter Dolton investigate

comparability. Although universities do not publish a breakdown of degree awards by grade, an indication of this can be found by comparing the numbers receiving these degrees in 1981 with the number of undergraduate entrants to the university three years previously. (Notice that this method of calculation implicitly weights the drop out rate by including all entrants in the calculations.)

The table below reports first and upper second honours degrees in 1981 as a percentage of entrants in the academic year 1978/79. Adjustments have been made for students on part-time and diploma courses and for undivided second class awards. (Despite these careful adjustments the figures reported should be viewed as proxies rather than precise values.)

Alongside the 1981 figures, the average percentage first and upper seconds over the years 1976-80 is given. (For five institutions where college amalgamations seriously distort the figures in some years, an average of fewer years is reported.) Scottish universities are excluded from the table because the method of calculation is less reliable, given degree structures at those institutions. Oxford is excluded since its second class degrees are undivided.

Examination of the table produces two striking observations. First, there is a considerable variation in the percentage of good degrees awarded in

1981. At the most extreme the proportion of entrants obtaining such a degree may vary by as much as 40 per cent from one institution to another. Second, a comparison of the 1981 figures with the previous average shows that the pattern of variation is consistent over time.

It should be possible to explain the inter-university differences in the pattern of degree awards by differences in university characteristics. Intuitively, three types of characteristic would seem to be relevant: student ability, university subject mix and university teaching inputs. This hypothesis can be tested statistically by performing a regression analysis of the 1981 percentage of first and upper seconds on a range of variables representing university characteristics.

Such an analysis is explained in detail and fully reported in a forthcoming paper, *Degree Classification and Past Rates: An Inter-University Comparison*, by M. Bee and P. Dolton, in the *Higher Education Review*, Spring 1985. In this article the authors seek to explain the variance in degree award percentages by the characteristics of the university and its student body. In essence, the conclusions reached are that student and institutional variables cannot explain the pattern of degree awards across institutions and neither can the subject mix. Yet by including the previous average as an 'variable' in the analysis, the strong and highly (statistically) significant associa-

tion between the 1981 awards and past awards is confirmed. The student ability variables in the analysis were based on General Certificate of Education A level scores and their insignificance lends a new (inter-university) dimension to the often reported low correlation between A level and degree performance. However, when this insignificance is viewed alongside the consistent time pattern, it becomes particularly interesting.

Since student selection is based on a criterion which does not significantly influence degree awards, the consistency of the latter over time must be explained by institutional rather than student influence. And if, as the investigation suggests, institutional influence does not arise through "real" characteristics (such factors as library size, student-staff ratio, physical capital inputs were represented in the analysis); or through subject mix of the student body there must be a strong suspicion that each institution bases its degree awards on a preconception of the appropriate proportion in each category. Moreover, as the differences in awards indicate, the preconception differs considerably across universities.

If this suspicion is well-founded, the degree award system is in urgent need of investigation. In the meantime, prospective students would be well advised to study the figures before completing their Universities Central Council on Admissions form.

First and upper second class honours degrees as a percentage of undergraduate entrants three years previously - 1981 and five year average 1976-80.

	1981	1976-80
Aston	28.2	22.6
Bath	38.8	32.7
Birmingham	25.0	27.2
Bradford	33.0	30.1
Bristol	39.2	35.9
Brunel	25.1	28.5
Cambridge	59.1	67.9
City	26.0	26.8
Durham	31.8	31.5
East Anglia	24.9	29.5
Essex	26.5	30.3
Exeter	27.7	31.1
Hull	24.2	25.0
Keels	28.2	29.4
Kent	23.4	23.8
Lancaster	25.9	26.3
Leeds	28.2	24.8
Leicester	31.4	32.4
Liverpool	24.4	28.9
London	28.2	25.7
Loughborough	30.4	28.5
Manchester	30.1	27.9
UMIST	28.0	24.1
Newcastle	23.7	22.1
Nottingham	40.2	38.0
Reading	33.2	31.2
Sheffield	23.1	21.4
Sheffield Hallam	30.4	31.8
Southampton	33.7	32.7
Stirling	25.0	24.5
Sussex	35.8	33.9
Warwick	27.5	28.9
York	37.8	41.3
Aberystwyth	33.8	36.3
Bangor	31.8	30.3
Cardiff	24.1	24.1
Swansea	26.0	26.0
UWIST	26.9	27.0
Mean	29.7	29.8

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Pauline Stafford

What Les Miserable needs is a good belly-laugh

Poor Les Huckfield has not made himself many friends with his performance on the megaphone in the European Parliament the other week. He had borrowed a loud-hailer from the Kirby unemployment centre and used it to make a scurrilous call for a debate on the miners' strike. His own side was embarrassed, the Tory ranks incensed. Short-circuiting the formal procedures with a loud noise was not the way to do it; Huckfield, who had been appealing regularly for a debate only to find his microphone was regularly switched off, clearly felt it was the only way to do it.

Later in the day the Parliament did vote for a debate, through the proper formal channels, not without a touch of smug hypocrisy. Huckfield had repeatedly refused Huckfield's more regular requests. Les is obviously a prickly character and uncomfortable to work with, but his performance and frustration show how difficult protest is and how unjustified we are in letting his raucous tones obscure his message. They call him Les Miserable in Brussels and the voice of protest is unfortunately often humourless. A good laugh is usually conspicuous by its absence from the pages of radical journals. No laughing matter the subjects of such writings, the humour needed to kindle the first of protest in the belly seems to extinguish the belly-laugh. But some of us enjoy a good joke. I cannot survive a weekend without a fix of the *New Statesman*, with the first injection usually the competition.

But calling Huckfield Les Miserable doesn't simply describe his appearance and manner; as an in-joke, a literary witicism it also places him as an outsider. Protest readily generates mutual alienation, which is one of the things which fuels it in the first place. All protest has to involve moving outside the rules to some extent since the rules are part of the status quo and we are all under strong pressure to conform to them.

To criticize, to ask for change, to make demands is always to adopt a difficult role. Oliver Twist asking for more only looks appealing as a child and from a particular historical viewpoint. How often do we hear arguments which can be reduced to the point that only radicals/the left are "political"? "Political" is certainly not being used here in the sense of politics as presenting and embodying different sets of interests and their conflict, a meaning which stretches to include the whole spectrum of opinion. "Political" in this other sense is a derogatory term, equivalent to "bohemian", signalling change, by definition undesirable.

When Les Huckfield takes up his megaphone he is not merely amplifying his voice, but magnifying the tones of the language of protest, arguably always shrill and discordant because always "other". The fire which feeds protest feeds the emotions, so that criticism and demands are often couched in strong and emotive terms. But beyond this language is itself sufficiently a reflection of the status quo to often prove a difficult vehicle for an attack upon it. Difficult, but not impossible since language is a richer tool than a mere superstructure of material conditions. Undoubtedly one of the great problems for the left is making the language of protest and change attractive - a task not best undertaken through a loudhailer.

The extent to which they can be acceptably expressed depends to a large extent on the nature of the political discourse and the direction in which it is shifting. During the last war, for example, a language of collectivism and duty to the state, stressing reciprocal duties between state and individual was dominant.

A national emergency called for a collective response. Thus a national nutrition policy could be presented as a national duty. The individual stayed healthy and strong by eating well the better to serve the war effort; the state had a duty to nourish its citizens with a rationing policy premised on a balanced diet, school meals provision, mass information and so on. The universality of such arguments in the 1940s facilitated a Labour victory. There were many reasons for that victory, but one was certainly that, at least temporarily, Labour policies chimed with the prevailing discourse; its voice did not sound like that of protest, it spoke the language of the day.

Since then political discourse has shifted in a decidedly individualistic direction. Calls for social spending or public action again appear disoriental. At present it is almost impossible for arguments from the left not to sound raucous. Feminism faces many of the same problems - the "shrill harpings" of the stereotype speak in the same shrill voice of the outsider.

At every level language and accent reveal the conformist in all of us. The findings of one recent research project into accents suggested that they may fluctuate according to age. Our regional accents do not simply become gradually muted as we mature and mix more widely, but may be strongest in youth and of age, all sorts in middle life. It may be that the young, not yet interested in the norms beyond family and peer group, and the old, who are either past caring or, as I prefer to believe, determinedly cussed exhibit the strongest regional burrs. In those desperate middle years of striving for upward mobility, acceptance and advancement we shed or hide them. Women, it was alleged, make more attempt at accents less English than men; indeed men took pride, especially when together, in approximating to a slovenly norm. Could it really be that women are linguistically and socially more conformist than men - their insecurity may make the pressures greater? Or do both conform, only the ideals differing; for women the gentility of *Pebble Mill at One*, for men the macho parades of the public bar? I would hazard a guess that Les did not shout down his megaphone in BBC English.

Since the tone and language of protest place the protester outside, his or her protest is easily dismissed as envy or sour grapes. For those within all the pressures are for silence or the most muted of criticism. Inside those invisible boundaries, unseen but constantly reinforced in their acknowledgment we write our political views, even pen and ink columns on why protest is difficult rather than using our opportunities to attack our own establishments.

It was for precisely such reasons that a determined critic like Orwell preferred to remain an "out", he appreciated the difficulties of criticizing those whom he knew personally, experienced both the advantages and the drawbacks of the advantages and the disadvantages of the "out". It is only the unsuccessful students who complain about the syllabus or the examinations. But only they can be sufficiently liberated from its pressures to be able to do so and they especially are aware of its inadequacies.

In the case of the Euro MP for Merseyside we might wish the messenger had been more subtle, his point presented more mellifluously. But harshness is inescapable from such messages and they jar in any medium; their tone is no adequate reason for refusing to listen.

Customers and contractors

David Warner on collaboration between education and industry as experienced by the Coventry Consortium

It is still unusual in British education to find a university collaborating closely with a polytechnic. In the normal way, neither associate at all with colleges of further education, other than to supply staff to validate, externally examine or to act as governors.

The Coventry Consortium, however, has broken down some of these barriers. It has become a partnership of equals, both in its management structure and in the provision of courses, approximately 40 per cent of which have involved the sharing of staff and facilities across the binary line. Collaboration has been extended to include a self-help development programme: wherever possible an extra staff member is included on courses, ostensibly to act as an assistant, in practice to learn the skill or information being taught, thereby increasing the pool of qualified tutors.

This approach has attracted widespread interest. Consortium staff have spoken to nearly 30 delegations - sometimes led by universities, sometimes by polytechnics, most often by enterprises local education authorities. Government departments and other agencies have given strong backing to educational collaboration. The University Grants Committee working party on continuing education commends the approach.

Of greatest significance, however, has been the uniting of the Department of Education and Science and the Manpower Services Commission to promote collaboration as a key plank in their adult training programme. In April, a £1.3m pilot programme was announced to assist the establishment of 70 small-scale local collaborative projects and 15 major schemes.

A national steering committee has been created to oversee the programme and to select the major schemes, while approval for the small projects has been delegated to DES and MSC regional staff. From the outset, local firms demanded a range of services than originally intended and the consortium now offers consultancy, research and development and the hire of accommodation and equipment; most recently, the design of equipment, testing of prototypes and, finally, manufacture by local firms.

Collaborative arrangements also attract international clients for whom the consortium provides tailor-made intensive courses, joint courses with local companies and programmes which bridge the gaps in the British educational ladder. Not only are there important pedagogic, political and long-term economic reasons for recruiting international students, but the fees and related expenditure are a significant source of income to both individual institutions and the local economy; the consortium has acted as a single access point.

Discussions are under way to ease the underfunding of continuing education but currently many ventures are penalized for a provision of education. Theoretically, no Government money is available to undermine the full-cost principle but reason can prevail over ideology and funding can be obtained, particularly for collaborative arrangements. In the last year, our consortium has helped to attract several large grants from bodies like Open Tech and from the European Social Fund (organized through the agency of the West Midlands Economic Development Unit). Bids in excess of £1m have already been made for 1984/85 and 1985/86.

The consortium is not allowed to count to its credit any existing post-experience work being undertaken by its participating institutions. With this in mind, during the first year, it ran 40 tailor-made programmes (with a further 37 inquiries in hand). There was an initial reluctance both to accepting the provision by traditional educational institutions. However, there has been a widespread welcome for the benefits of collaboration, a significant growth of work and a new credibility.

Educational institutions rarely coordinate their various relationships with industry. Different staff from different departments will be responsible for



Various forms of measuring equipment available in the Coventry Consortium to assist local firms.

student placements, for consultancy and research work, for the recruitment of students to award-bearing initial training and post-experience courses, for the generation and short post-experience programmes and for the nomination of industrial representatives on to advisory committees. Beneath this formalized layer will probably lie a tangled net of individual contacts. Not only is this lack of coordination expensive in time and travelling costs, it also prevents a systematic utilization of educational resources and reinforces an unprofessional image.

A more controversial area for cooperation lies behind the closed doors of professional practice. If educationalists are to become more efficient and create a resource surplus to support new initiatives, they must reach more students, per class, teach more hours per week and/or more weeks per year. They could adopt new teaching methods involving distance-learning techniques. However, it could be argued by such tactics, efficiency would be achieved at the cost of effectiveness. Why should lecturers have to reinvent the wheel whenever they are allocated a new class. Would it not be possible to establish a central departmental resource room where teaching notes and materials are deposited for the common good? Surely collaboration should be permitted to replace competitiveness?

There are many opportunities for collaboration at the national level; the DES/MS initiative is a praiseworthy example. There are known skill shortages in several new technology areas such as basic electronics, information technology and robotics. The allocation of substantial additional resources will help, but may also exacerbate a central problem. Educational institutions all are producing piecemeal response to local demands. Large sums are being spent on developing similar materials in different places at the same time. Just as the National Computing Centre has developed a network of microsystems to distribute rapidly changing information, so core material in skill shortage subjects could be collected centrally and made available to local teaching centres. A balance between centralism and professional autonomy would need to be achieved, but the benefits of trying would be substantial.

In discussions of post-experience education employee needs usually take second place to those of employers. Employees are interested in both the skills and information they will gain and the external recognition of these new assets. The appropriate Government departments should now take a more active role in furthering the growth of modular-based qualifications, in promoting the establishment of more part-time first and higher degree courses entirely in non-work time, in creating credit transfer systems and in investigating the future relationships between the Open University and other institutions.

Financial support is available for most firms from central or local government agencies or department for training, consultancy, expansion of employment, energy management, etc.

David Warner is the founder and coordinator of the Coventry Consortium which comprises the University of Warwick, the Coventry Polytechnic and three Coventry colleges of further education. This article is based upon a paper given at the Sixth International Conference on Higher Education held at the University of Lancaster.

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BOOKS

Innocence betrayed

by Valerie Shaw

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doubtedly yielded that "interest of contrasted things" on which he once said "many painter of life and manners inevitably much depends", but these contrasts never serve reductive moral opposites in his fiction. Rather, they help provide the taut structure so essential to good short fiction and more particularly, they heighten ironies like that in the touching story "Four Meetings", where a New England spinster (reminiscent of a Sarah Orne Jewett character) dreams of seeing Europe but ends up with the grossest aspects of Europe, emboldened in an exploitative and totally phoney "counter", permanently resident in her home. The manipulation, the barter, that go on beneath the veneer of "civilized" European life remained a preoccupation with James, and the patterns whereby ignorance becomes painful knowledge and idealistic innocence is forced to shield duplicity recur throughout his fiction.

In his short stories, as well as in novels like *The Golden Bowl*, the theme of innocence betrayed continued far beyond the 1870s. The sharp antithesis between the American outlook and the European became secondary, no longer something to be illustrated for its own sake. But antithesis remained central to James's view of life, and in the two volumes edited by Peter Rawlings under the title *Henry James' Shorter Masterpieces* can be found numerous instances of James's concern, more an obsession, with the paradoxes at the heart of human existence.

Rawlings offers a selection of material from the 1890s, emphasizing that in this period James was absorbed by the conflict between "artistic integrity and the compromising pressures of popular taste". Gone are jaunty figures like the narrator of *"Theodolinde"* (reprinted by Aziz) who sees a barber's pretty wife, touches his whiskers and "straightaway decides that they need trimming". Instead, the figures commanding attention are writers of the kind typified by Verker in *"The Figure in the Carpet"*, almost mystically devoted to the aim of expressing "the very passion of his past", very conscious of the "artistic scheme" of his novels misunderstood, as discerned at all. Verker and others like him (Paradise in *"The Death of the Lion"*, for example, or John Delavoy in the story of that name) are victims of "the bottomless vulgarity of the age", about which James is unremittingly blunt and scathing.

These artists, not fresh young American girls, are now the "innocents" who stand in need of protection, and the manipulators who endanger them are the new professionals, journalists and editors. Adroit in judging public taste (especially for personal revelations, preferably scandalous), the men who "market" the artists' work represent the disappearance of fine literary standards, a situation which James felt was keeping his own achievements more hidden than they deserved. Yet

cent tribute to the writers of the eastern bloc. The ease and energy of Pushkin, who "never draws attention to his meanings"; Anna Akhmatova, whose poetry is "dignified in the grandest sense without pretending to dignity"; the passions of Marina Tsvetaeva, which "seem to belong to her as a person not as a poet"; the "fudic humility" of Czeslaw Milosz - these are, in the most important qualities, Bayley fervently values and he champions them in a white heat of involvement.

But his criticism is altogether "hospitable" (a word he uses to describe W. H. Auden's poetry), and it could be said that he is too anxious to find a good word, or at least some mitigation, for everyone. At a glance, he could be written off as a garrulous anachronism, a throwback to a prewar belletrist tradition. A little more consideration reveals not only an unfettered breadth of reading, but a generosity of spirit which is all too rare in the bitter and inward-looking world of literary criticism.

Rupert Christiansen

Rupert Christiansen's book *"Prima Donna"* has just been published by Bodley Head.



Henry James

although there is a good deal of personal bitterness behind so many of these tales, there is also tenderness, often conveyed through a character who is given the task of saving the artist from what is referred to in one story as "the dreary duty of being a personality".

Frequently baffled, disciples like the narrator of *"The Next Time"* complicate even further the ironies which make these stories so tricky to interpret and about which Rawlings writes very convincingly in his introductions. Such characters testify to the essential privacy of the individual artist's vision, and also (since many of them are literary reviewers) make us think about the question: whose reputation is a review actually meant to affect, the reviewer's or the reviewed? But these characters, in all their perplexity, also cast an atmosphere of affectionate tact over many stories, helping to keep the subject aloof from the crowd and sometimes offering physical comfort, very as in *"The Middle Years"*, where the young Doctor Hugh tends the dying writer Dencombe and reassures him that yearning for a second chance to write "the unwritten" is fruitless - what matters is what he has done, "the feasible".

Dencombe's agonized sense that it

Development is also traceable in the new Norton *Tales of Henry James*, if only because it is more eclectic than either of the collections already considered, ranging from the 1870s to the early twentieth century. The stories are by and large familiar, including, among others, James's wonderful study of scholarly greed *"The Aspern Papers"*; the moving and technically adventurous story *"The Pupil"*, where James's flair for pathos is interwoven with yet another satirical attack on vulgarity; and, possibly his grimmest tale of regret for missed chances, *"The Beast in the Jungle"*.

The impression left by these collections, both separately and taken together, is of a writer who, like Verker, has an idea which "stretches from book to book, and everything else, comparatively, plays over the surface of it". But to say that is perhaps to misrepresent the variety and range also to be discovered here: always experimenting, and capable of turning out stilled pieces ("Pastel", included by Rawlings, for example) as well as masterpieces like *"The Real Thing"*; of trying his hand at a spine-chiller, as in *"The Ghostly Rental"* (reprinted by Aziz) or, more effectively, simply tingling his narrative with supernatural elements, James is really more like Dencombe, always striving for something better in his art. "We work in the dark - we do what we can," Dencombe says, "we give what we have". And then, in case this sounds too fatalistic, he adds, "Our doubt is our passion and our passion is our task". To the task of writing tales, no less than to his novels, James brought passion and, as the early stories in particular demonstrate, a good deal of gaiety and fun too.

Valerie Shaw is lecturer in English at the University of Edinburgh.

has "taken too much of his life to produce too little of his art", his mourning for lost opportunities, and the sheer difficulties of being an artist at all. What James calls "the age of trash triumphs" appear in various forms throughout his later stories, but as early as 1875, in the allegory *"Benvenuto"*, which opens the Aziz volume, he had struck the theme of the artist's need to choose between entanglement with humanity and withdrawal to a "monastic cell". That James found increasingly subtle narrative methods (and a style to match) for exploring his ideas and for the social observation at which he always excelled, is evident when one reads the stories in chronological order, and here Aziz's policy of reprinting the first serial version of individual stories is especially helpful.

Development is also traceable in the new Norton *Tales of Henry James*, if only because it is more eclectic than either of the collections already considered, ranging from the 1870s to the early twentieth century. The stories are by and large familiar, including, among others, James's wonderful study of scholarly greed *"The Aspern Papers"*; the moving and technically adventurous story *"The Pupil"*, where James's flair for pathos is interwoven with yet another satirical attack on vulgarity; and, possibly his grimmest tale of regret for missed chances, *"The Beast in the Jungle"*.

The impression left by these collections, both separately and taken together, is of a writer who, like Verker, has an idea which "stretches from book to book, and everything else, comparatively, plays over the surface of it". But to say that is perhaps to misrepresent the variety and range also to be discovered here: always experimenting, and capable of turning out stilled pieces ("Pastel", included by Rawlings, for example) as well as masterpieces like *"The Real Thing"*; of trying his hand at a spine-chiller, as in *"The Ghostly Rental"* (reprinted by Aziz) or, more effectively, simply tingling his narrative with supernatural elements, James is really more like Dencombe, always striving for something better in his art. "We work in the dark - we do what we can," Dencombe says, "we give what we have". And then, in case this sounds too fatalistic, he adds, "Our doubt is our passion and our passion is our task". To

BOOKS

Gone for a Moonie

The Making of a Moonie: brainwashing or choice?
by Eileen Barker
Blackwell, £12.00
ISBN 0 631 13246 5

The author begins by explaining, somewhat apologetically, that this book is written for a wider audience than sociologists alone and asks to be excused for not employing the usual terminology. She has nothing to apologize for, indeed if writing for a general audience encourages authors to write as well as she has here, it should become mandatory for all sociologists.

This book is a model for sociologists not only in the style in which it is written but also in the way it deals with its subject matter. At a time when many sociologists apparently see themselves as "committed" polemicists, using sociological analysis as an intellectual weapon in the service of their adopted cause, it shows what can be achieved by the dispassionate analysis of something which generates so much passion in others. In seeking to answer the question "Why should - how could - anyone become a Moonie?" the author commits herself neither to the view that converts are brainwashed nor that they freely choose. Instead, she penetratingly examines the process of becoming a Moonie and arrives at a genuinely independent conclusion.

Much of the book's authority derives from the obvious depth of the author's understanding of the Moonies. The second and third chapters provide, respectively, a brief history of the movement and an account of its theology. From this, it is apparent that, although far from convincing to the outsider, Moonie beliefs are no more irrational than those of many other religions. Certainly, the notion that Moonies must be brainwashed because no sane person could believe such twaddle is undermined by even this brief introduction to the complexities of their beliefs.

It is further undermined by the author's description of the actual process through which people are recruited to the Moonies. Using an eclectic and thorough mixture of methods, from participant observation to questionnaires, she describes how people are approached and invited to attend an initial two-day residential course and how they continue on to the much longer course the completion of which usually marks their becoming a Moonie.

In contrast to some of the wilder

allegations about people being kidnapped and subjected to intense psychological and physical pressure, the picture which emerges is much more mundane. Typically, Moonies (who turn out to be genuinely nice young people) befriend strangers who are, perhaps, at a loose end or whose curiosity has been aroused and invite them along to the two-day workshop to learn more about the movement. Not unnaturally, given all the adverse publicity, the Moonies are not entirely forthcoming about who exactly they represent, but once at the workshop this becomes evident soon enough. There the potential convert becomes the object of attention and affection, which sounds a little suffocating but not oppressive. They are told about Moonie beliefs in an atmosphere which undoubtedly encourages persuasion. Their Moonie hosts, who often outnumber "guests", enthusiastically endorse all that is said and discourage scepticism or the exchange of views between their guests. What "guests" are told about the movement and when is carefully controlled, for example, the heavy implication that the Reverend Moon is, in fact, the Messiah, is revealed only at the conclusion of the initial course. Certainly, derogatory allegations and information which puts the movement in a bad light are ignored.

While clearly designed to persuade, does this process amount to brainwashing? The author is clearly sceptical of this explanation of why people become Moonies, for it often amounts to little more than asserting that no one in their right mind would choose to join the movement. From her own direct observations and the reports of

those who have left the movement, she finds little support for the notion that people are coerced into joining. Indeed, if it is a process of brainwashing, it is an extraordinarily ineffective one, since of those who accept the invitation to attend a centre (a self-selected minority) the author calculates that only 0.5 per cent remain associated with the movement two years later. The main reason, it seems, why people are not converted is that they interpret their similar experiences of the induction process differently: what is warmth and affection for one person, may be considered "creeping" by another.

Why then does anyone join? Is it because they are peculiarly susceptible to Moonie pressure? The author's answer is that while they may be susceptible this does not mean that they are suggestible, that is, it is not the social and psychological inadequacies who are selectively recruited. If anything the opposite is true. The typical recruit, it turns out, is a young adult, more often male than female, brought up in a middle class or upper working-class home, whose parents' occupation was associated with service and duty to the public. Their parents tended to emphasize conventional moral standards and religious observance. Religion had always been important to recruits, but they had often become disillusioned with institutionalized religion and certainly saw in neither established religion nor secular politics any answer to the problems besetting the world which concerned them greatly.

In other words, Moonie converts were often seeking an answer to the

impoverishment of life, although not necessarily in a self-conscious manner. What the Moonies offered was an attractive alternative world-view: the vision of an attainable utopian future which makes sense of all that is wrong with the world and prescribes collective action infused with spiritual meaning as a remedy. As such it offers direction and hope to those who find themselves lacking the direction of a career or stable relationship, or the hope that commitment to institutionalized religion provides. Presented with this utopian vision, converts grasp it eagerly; they do not deliberate about their choice, but are carried along on the wave of their enthusiasm. Nevertheless, this process of persuasion differs very little from many others that arouse much less controversy.

Inevitably, the significance of this book will be most keenly felt in the social and psychological inadequacies, acting as a corrective to some of the more hysterical allegations. However, it should have a wider impact, for it challenges the view, which is still widely held, that people are the passive recipients of social influences imposed from without. If in conditions apparently so conducive to the imposition of values and attitudes as those found in Moonie residential courses, people are able so easily to resist accepting them, why should others succumb to conditions far less persuasive?

P. A. J. Waddington

Dr Waddington is lecturer in sociology at the University of Reading.



A Moonie selling literature in the street, from *The Making of a Moonie*.

Cold comfort

Education, Unemployment and the Future of Work

by A. G. Watts

Open University Press, £5.95

ISBN 0 335 10411 8

School-Leavers and their Prospects: youth in the labour market in the 1980s

by Kenneth Roberts

Open University Press, £5.95

ISBN 0 335 10418 5

The rise of youth unemployment has been all the more visible for the dramatic effect it has had upon policymakers. These two books look beneath the surface of state intervention and consider what has been learnt so far about the preparation of young people for unemployment and what might be done to improve their prospects.

In *Education, Unemployment and the Future of Work*, Tony Watts, one of the country's leading careers specialists, seeks "to explore critically the mass of confused and conflicting ideas which surround the issue of unemployment and its educational implications." His book covers a lot of ground but is unfortunately marred by a tendency to complicate simple ideas and by too many unnecessary excursions into the literature. The start of the chapter on "The Employment Scenario" is a kaleidoscope of ideas. In the space of only two pages the author quotes St Paul, offers the reader two lines of a hymn, adds a paragraph on St Thomas Aquinas, and refers in quick succession to the views of Aristotle, the Benedictines, the fourteenth-century Mr Grottoe - "labour is holy but business is dangerous", Luther, Calvin, Weber and Tawney. We then hear from Marx and William Morris, E. F. Schumacher and Freud.

Mr Watts's basic point is that greater vocational relevance in education is being sought at the very time when teachers and pupils feel that the bond between education and employment is losing credibility. This produces tension in schools, lowers the morale of teachers and taught, and creates uncertainty about both means and ends. Educational institutions are especially confused about how to react when the Manpower Services Commission muscled in (its scheme would see 100,000 young people into the labour market).

Watts illustrates the situation by reference to how three schools have experimented with their curricula. He goes on to consider options for the system as a whole. Although too detailed in places, this first half of the book is much the better and manages to convey a sense of the problems facing schools.

In the second half, the author presents a series of "descriptive vignettes" which are intended to provide a picture of the labour market in the 1980s. These are intended to provide a picture of the labour market in the 1980s. These are intended to provide a picture of the labour market in the 1980s.

rent patterns of adjustment to an underlying shortage of conventional jobs. He does not, however, say very much about the likely demands for education and training which would accompany these scenarios. This leaves him in some difficulty in the final chapter when trying to discuss their implications for the education system, and the argument is distinctly woolly on policy.

In *School Leavers and their Prospects*, Kenneth Roberts of Liverpool University sets himself the task of analysing present-day school-leavers' predicament. He manages to extract major themes and insights from a burgeoning field of research. His review of mainly sociological work will be useful both to non-sociologists researching in the field and to practitioners in education and the labour market.

Roberts concentrates largely upon the transition from school to work, managing to strike a good balance between discussing specific findings and researching broad judgments on the basis of the evidence. He identifies a number of difficulties inherent in present policy developments. Research suggests that young people are extremely resourceful, capable of adjustment to abrupt change in status, and manage to reconcile themselves to the reality of the labour market. Yet much is now heard of the need to prolong the transition phase between education and employment. Does the world of work really require quite so much more of young people than it did before? Or is the emphasis on transition primarily a response to that other body of research evidence which shows that young people are hurt by unemployment?

Personal touch

A Generation of Schooling: English secondary schools since 1944

by Harry Judge

Oxford University Press, £12.50 and £3.95

ISBN 0 19 219175 6 and 289180 4

Harry Judge's book comes in generous measure; it is practically two generations for the price of one. Young Judge started grammar school in 1939 shortly after the declaration of war with Germany but we learn a great deal about the previous forty years through frequent flashbacks inspired by his father's education.

It is a difficult book to characterize. There is an autobiographical strand, full of reminiscences and family details, while the structure of the book is provided by an account of secondary education since the Second World War. The form of the account is broadly chronological, but each chapter

also takes on the task of exploring a particular aspect of education. The result is that themes, chronology and family reminiscences sometimes become intimately entwined to produce a complex narrative. Despite this complication it remains a readable and interesting book throughout.

Harry Judge has in his career been a classroom teacher, a head of history, a distinguished headmaster of Banbury School, director of the University of Oxford department of educational studies, admissions tutor for Balliol and a member of several government committees of inquiry. Throughout his career he has maintained a finger on the pulse of educational politics and read deeply into government reports and educational literature. He relates, using much personal detail, the fluctuating patterns of concern in education to the particular tasks, career perspectives and institutional preoccupations of a practising educationist. The book is therefore a history written from the inside with the kind of personal touch that brings history alive.

He seems to have had the knack of it. On October 19, 1978, I attended a lecture by Harry Judge at the University of Warwick. He was then a member of the committee of inquiry into the education of the young in the 1980s. He was then a member of the committee of inquiry into the education of the young in the 1980s. He was then a member of the committee of inquiry into the education of the young in the 1980s.

Robert Lindley

Professor Lindley is director of the Institute for Employment Research at the University of Warwick.

to listen to a speech by the Prime Minister of the day, Mr Callaghan. Dick Crossman was a neighbour and enjoyed arguing with him. Crossman invited him to dinner to meet Crossland. Harry Judge subsequently served on the Public Schools Commission under Sir John Newsom. Later he was to have dinner at the Dorchester with Mrs Thatcher as a member of the James Committee on teacher training. Even when there is no detailed account of a meeting Harry Judge seems to be personally introducing to you the major figures of postwar education.

Almost incidentally the book illustrates how Oxford old boy networks shaped educational policy at the level of government and the top Civil Service for two decades. However, despite the insider view the book is without two important dimensions. First, it lacks an analytical dimension. Events move almost without cause and history is portrayed as a description of the debate of the day. The section on the Public Schools Commission with the chapter entitled "Privilege" illustrates the point. The sentence "In the event, of course, nothing was or could be done" describes the outcome of Sir John Newsom's committee and captures the feeling of inevitability and drift that pervades the book. The account omits the fact that the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party endorsed by conference, rejected the commission's proposals as inadequate. A major opportunity to attack "privilege" was lost. A battle for the retention of class privilege was fought and won but the committee it would appear hardly noticed it.

The second missing dimension is a reflective one. Harry Judge carefully weaves a personal dimension into the narrative but it is not clear why. Certainly he does not tell us much about himself in the process. The reader is not always clear where Judge stands on many of the issues he describes. The idea of history seen from a particular perspective is partially lost. Perhaps the story of his career told us nothing about ourselves. I was left with the feeling that Harry Judge had a lot more to tell.

The book ends on a personal note with the chapter "Forty Years On". However, the real message lies within the chapter on contraction. Harry Judge remains guardedly optimistic and puts his faith in the policies contained within his section on "Teaching Quality". Yet there is a lightness of touch or optimism about the future. I left the book feeling that the next generation might well see us back to the point where Harry Judge made his entrance.

Colin Lacey

Colin Lacey is professor of education at the University of Sussex.

BOOKS

Regular celestial visitor

Halley's Comet

by Donald Tattersfield

Blackwell, £6.50

ISBN 0 631 13558 8

The Return of Halley's Comet

by Patrick Moore and John Mason

Pantheon Press, £7.95

ISBN 0 85595 667 X

The commonality of AD 1682, 1759, 1835, 1910 and 1985 is more than that they are separated by periods of about seventy-six years; they are Halley's comet years, times when this doyen of periodic comets hoves into view. But why do we all get so excited, why do we clamour for our once-in-a-lifetime sight of this somewhat feeble comet which has difficulty clambering into the top fifty intrinsically bright comets of recorded history?

Perhaps it is because Halley's comet is so fundamentally English - hovering doubtfully over the battlefields at Hastings in 1066 and being the instrument of the eponymous second Astronomer Royal's transformation of comets from the astrological harbingers of doom, disaster, despondency and political uprisings to the rather tame members of the solar system trundling round well-charted orbits.

Perhaps it is because the comet can be used as a celestial exclamation mark punctuating history and transporting us mentally to the sides of the great astronomers who once gazed on it with awe: John Herschel (1835), Charles Messier (1759), Edmond Halley (1682), Johannes Kepler (1607) and Ptolemy (1531). Perhaps it is because of its predictability. There are few greater illustrations of the veracity

of Newton's and Kepler's laws than this comet which, after decades in the deep freeze of interplanetary space, returns on time and on the right track.

Perhaps it is because comets are one of the few really mysterious objects in the inner solar system. Were they formed with the planets or has the Sun scooped them up some time later as it journeys around the galaxy? Is the majority of their mass contained in a large dirty snowball nucleus, which in Halley's case is thought to be about nine kilometres across, or is it scattered as a large swarm of smaller particles? How can a comet like Halley have previously passed close to the Sun about 2,300 times and still put on such a brave celestial show?

At this return Halley's comet was first sighted on October 16, 1982, by a research group using the 200-inch telescope on Mount Wilson, and it has been carefully monitored ever since. By autumn 1985 it will be just about bright enough to be seen by observers in the northern hemisphere, putting on a brave display for those south of the equator in the spring of 1986. It is not, however, going to be all that spectacular. There will be no lightning surprises, no searchlight-like apparitions beaming up from the twilight horizon. Far more will read about it than see it. What, however, will those readers want? If it is just to know where the comet is in the sky both these books help with maps showing its movement from autumn 1985 to spring 1986. But it is one thing having a map, another finding your way; so I think the best answer for most is to cultivate a friendly astronomer and ask him to act as a guide.

Both books concentrate on filling in the background and discussing comets in general and Halley in particular. It is here, however, that the problems start. The good points in Tattersfield's book are the computer programs, designed for the BBC Model B and the Spectrum. With these you can investigate the variation of the altitude and azimuth of the comet as a function of time, and plot out the relative motion of the comet and the Earth. The author also gives details of how a three-dimensional model of the comet orbit in the inner solar system can be constructed. Here, however, it is interesting (and depressing) to note that he assumes that his computer-using audience, though capable of punching keys, are completely incapable of plotting out the orbit of a comet by substituting into trivial cartesian or polar equations.

Tattersfield's bad point echoes through the remaining 90 per cent of the book. It is only one bad point but unfortunately it is fundamental: Tattersfield knows very little about comets. Many reviewers are tempted to provide a list of errors. I'm not. I haven't space. Tattersfield's grasp of modern cometary theory is very shaky and even on the firmer ground of historical analysis he has completely

misinterpreted Halley's approach to the calculation of cometary orbits. This is not a book I can recommend. Moore and Mason's work makes me much happier. Apart from the excellent sky maps, the book contains a very sensible analysis of the anatomy of comets, the authors carefully charting the effects Halley's comet had on the minds of scientists and the more gullible (sic) general public each time it returned to the Sun and emphasizing (quite rightly) the two meteor streams produced by the decay of the comet. It might be a long way off but dust from the comet's nucleus hits and burns out in the Earth's upper atmosphere twice a year. Too little time is spent on the

future; and the review of the forthcoming space missions and the massive ground-based campaign, and what these hope to achieve, is rather skimpy. This commendably short book on comets, and Halley's in particular, could be read at a gallop. Its authors must be congratulated for introducing us to this difficult subject in such an exciting way.

Molecular graphics

A Pictorial Approach to Molecular Structure and Reactivity

by R. F. Hout, Jr.

W. H. Hehre and W. J. Pietro

Wiley, £46.20

ISBN 0 471 89703 5

The physicists of the 1930s were confident enough to suggest that quantum mechanics had solved chemistry: solution of the Schrödinger equation in principle permits not only the energy of a molecule to be calculated but also yields the almost mystical wave function from which electron densities and other electronic properties may be deduced. Their confidence, however, was misplaced or at least premature, and the expression "in principle" covered a host of problems when it came to the realities.

The solution of the Schrödinger equation was only possible for polyatomic molecules within the orbital approximation, where each individual electron has its own mathematical function from which its density distribution may be determined. In atoms we think of *s*, *p* and *d* electrons, each with a characteristic spatial distribution. No progress was made with

the calculation of cometary orbits. This is not a book I can recommend. Moore and Mason's work makes me much happier. Apart from the excellent sky maps, the book contains a very sensible analysis of the anatomy of comets, the authors carefully charting the effects Halley's comet had on the minds of scientists and the more gullible (sic) general public each time it returned to the Sun and emphasizing (quite rightly) the two meteor streams produced by the decay of the comet. It might be a long way off but dust from the comet's nucleus hits and burns out in the Earth's upper atmosphere twice a year. Too little time is spent on the

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developed that were powerful enough to solve an approximate form of the Schrödinger equation involving millions and millions of separate integrals. Although this step was passed a decade ago, the resulting functions from which electron density information may be gleaned remained as mathematical functions, opaque to all but the original calculator or to specialists. A breakthrough in communication has come with computer graphics devices which permit the display of the molecular orbital wave functions or of charge density in each individual orbital: the molecular equivalent of a sphere or a *p* atomic orbital as two lobes with a nodal plane between them. The picture produced provides a display of the electron density of each particular electron in a given molecule. Without delving into mathematics or looking at numerical computer output, it is therefore possible to see at a glance, for example, that the most easily removed electrons in carbon monoxide (the highest occupied molecular orbital) are a lone pair of electrons on the carbon atom and that the part of the molecule into which electron density could most easily be channelled (the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital) is the antibonding π -molecular orbital electron density on both C and O, which does not tend to hold the two positively charged atomic nuclei together.

The book reinforces the view that computer-generated pictures of molecular and electronic structure will free the chemist from the narrow confines of structural formulae on the printed page. It also encourages the view that computer displays may be of more use in this respect than books, permitting as they do the use of colour and interaction by the operator. Indeed, the computer display is in some respects so much better than a printed picture that the authors' paper in *Journal of Computational Chemistry* (volume four, 1983) might be a better investment than their book.

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MIDDLE EAST POLITICS

The Military Dimension

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BOOKS

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Biochemical Adaptation
by P. W. Hochachka and G. N. Somero
Princeton University Press,
£55.40 and £13.90
ISBN 0 691 08343 6 and 08344 4

Similarities rather than differences are what have impressed biologists most about the results of biochemical research on different taxa; it turns out that men are surprisingly similar to microbes in their molecular structure and biochemical processes. The implications of this are that living things have originated and evolved from one common ancestor and that much of the diversity in form and function that we observe at the macroscopic level of the organism is due to the organization of the common molecular building blocks; bricks can, after all, make a mound or a mansion dependent on the way they are organized.

This book, which is really an extension of an earlier one, *Strategies of Biochemical Adaptation* (Saunders,

1973), considers biochemistry from almost the opposite perspective. It focuses attention on the diversity that can be perceived within the pervasive molecular uniformity and argues that much of this can sensibly be interpreted as an outcome of natural selection – that is, as adaptations to the various ecological challenges faced by organisms living in different environments.

Chapter one summarizes the method of approach; and this is unashamedly comparative – investigating, that is, how fundamental requirements of biochemical systems, such as preserving essential molecular order and providing power to pay various "costs of living", are realized in organisms with different ecologies. Chapters two and three describe the basic metabolic pathways and the enzymes that control them – that is involved in these processes. How this machinery responds to the pressures of heavy exercise, limited oxygen availability, diving, hibernation, early development, variations in temperature and to life in the deep sea is dealt with in subsequent chapters.

In some cases adaptive adjustments are shown to be quantitative – for example, poikilothermic ("cold-blooded") animals can offset reductions in metabolic rates resulting from decreased habitat temperatures by increasing the concentration of enzymes in their cells; and in others qualitative –

new enzymes are produced to adapt the biochemistry to the appropriate conditions. Such changes can be rigidly fixed or plastically responsive to changing environmental conditions (adaptability is adaptive). A very important message is that organisms are so integrated that changes in one biochemical trait have a cascading effect on many others and this implies not only that "evolutionary processes must be analysed on a system-wide basis" but that gene-determined metabolic traits are subjected to natural selection within the context of these organismic constraints – so much for "selfish genes".

Chapter ten is a fascinating essay on how the biological solutions that occur within and between the cells have apparently evolved towards the establishment of hospitable internal environments in which macromolecules can function optimally. The internal environment has to be balanced osmotically with the external and this is done, particularly in aquatic animals, either by use of substances, osmolytes, which have no effect on enzyme activity or by balancing mixtures of substances whose net effect is zero. Internal environments can plausibly be selected for their "fitness" relative to macromolecular functions, since such traits are likely to affect survival, fecundity and ultimately the efficacy of gene transmission to the next generation. Hence, the "fitness" of internal environments is compatible with, and

follows logically from, neo-Darwinian fitness. The analogous link with the "fitness" of external environments, which the authors hint at, is at best tenuous. Whatever "fitness" there is about external environments for the support of living systems must either be by accident or Design.

The final chapter is a disappointment; not, however, because of the information it contains – a description of adaptations for life at high pressure in the deep sea, and the peculiar ecology and physiology of organisms that constitute the sulphide-based communities that occur around hydrothermal vents there – but because it ought not to have been the final chapter. There ought to have been a summary, bringing together all the themes. In particular, there ought to have been a firmer grasping of the adaptationist nettle: How can we be sure that the variation that is so well described in Hochachka and Somero's book is due to natural selection? The formal answer is that we can't. As is the case for all science, certainty is elusive, but this is particularly so for the adaptationist programme where the ghost of Pangloss lurks insidiously in the background: a good adaptationist story can always be made out of any variation. Indeed, some biologists argue that much of the variation observed at the molecular level is neutral with respect to natural selection and is therefore noise not adaptation.

Peter Calow

Peter Calow is professor of zoology at the University of Sheffield.

Jonathan Cape have re-issued Karl von Frisch's classic work on *Bee: their vision, chemical senses, and language* at £6.95.

Program design

Sequential Program Structures
by Jim Welsh, John Elder
and David Bustard
Prentice-Hall, £19.95 and £9.95
ISBN 0 13 806837 2 and 806828 3
Construction of Data
Processing Software
by John Elder
Prentice-Hall, £12.95
ISBN 0 13 168675 5

Producing a good design for a computer program is difficult. An architect in designing a house is much more constrained by his materials than a programmer. Even though the programmer has the resources of the computer to aid the design process, the failure rate with software design is high – and expensive. Moreover, the infinite adaptability of software plagues the industry because of the effort that goes into program modification. The cost of such modifications is a reflection of the poor initial designs handicapped by inadequate tools.

Despite their titles, both these books are about program design. Moreover, they make a serious contribution to the quest for better design methods. All the authors were members of Professor Tony Hoare's group at the Queen's University of Belfast, a group that has established an excellent reputation on developments of the Pascal programming language. Although somewhat simplistic, Pascal is a good vehicle for teaching ideas in programming – hence, the use of the language in both books.

As program design is the centrepiece of a second course on programming, these books must assume an appropriate first course – in this case, a knowledge of Pascal. This is both a strength and a weakness: a strength because examples can be given in a concrete form using Pascal, and a weakness as the books will be too demanding for those not familiar with Pascal. In fact both books use an extension to Pascal called Pascal Plus. And although extending programming languages is not an easy task, Pascal Plus is very well conceived, the principle benefit being a module concept that supports the design methods advocated by the authors.

Sequential Program Structures which might have been entitled *Program Design using Pascal Plus*, starts with an introduction to Pascal – too short for those not familiar with the language and too long for those who are. The rest of the book is the use of modules in design. Initially, elementary examples are given, modules implementing the abstractions of queues, stacks and lists. The highlight is the subsequent use of these abstractions in simple but realistic examples, the implementation of an editor using the list abstraction (applied to characters) being particularly elegant.

Brian Wichmann

Brian Wichmann is at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington.

A second edition of John B. Moore's *Pascal: text and reference* has been published by Prentice-Hall at £23.65. And a second corrected reprint of the second edition of Kathleen Jensen and Nicklaus Wirth's *Pascal User Manual and Report* has been issued by Springer at DM24.50.



Badgers, *The National Trust Book of British Wild Animals*, ed. J. A. Burton (Jonathan Cape, £12.95).

Walk into my parlour

Animal Architecture and Building Behaviour
by Michael H. Hansell
Longman, £25.00
ISBN 0 582 46815 9

It is said that a man who studied the web-building behaviour of spiders once committed suicide because no one else could see the point of what he was doing. To be sure, studies of this sort are at the furthest end of science; it is easier to see the benefits of building roads or curing the sick, but understanding what spiders are up to needs no such justification: it is, quite simply, intriguing. That a short-lived and simple animal can build such a beautiful and effective trap is just one part of the fascination. What rules do they use to achieve this perfection? What materials enable them to make a structure which is so light and yet so strong? Why do the webs of different spiders differ in their form?

These are just a few of the sorts of questions which are dealt with in Michael Hansell's splendidly wide-ranging and fascinating book. The author himself has devoted much of his research career to studying building behaviour – especially the house-building of caddis fly larvae; humble animals which use various materials to build homes which they carry around with them in the ponds where they live. Hansell, however, eschews too much

detail on his own work, illustrating his theme with a nice variety of examples from the burrows of worms and tower blocks of termites to the nests of birds and the dams of beavers. He wisely excludes structures which are only secreted and so lack an element of construction, like the shells of snails, but even so his subject-matter does stretch through the whole animal kingdom. There is even an amoeba which makes protective plates within itself and arranges them with beautiful regularity on its outer surface. All this without a brain, for it is but a single cell.

Hansell's book is a work of scholarship aimed at the specialist. However, although it is well written and beautifully illustrated, even including some colour plates, terminology will put it beyond the range of those with only a passing interest. Nevertheless, there is much here to please the casual browser. At the academic level, architects and engineers will be struck by how natural selection through millions of years of trial and error has come up with solutions that they themselves had to be trained to know about. Had biological science developed at a greater rate, some of these solutions might even have come to us first through studies of the animals that use them. As it is, there are materials, like silk, for which we have no equal, indeed, a disadvantage of silk to its moth and spiders that produce it, is that other animals, like birds and people, keep on stealing it to make constructions of their own. Hansell describes the materials and building principles that animals adopt in some detail and reveals that even apparently haphazard structures, like the nest of a woodpigeon, are built following rules that neatly adapt them to the function that they serve.

As a counterweight to the discussion of physics and of engineering, the book looks at building behaviour from all the different angles that an ethologist might adopt and shows how well building illustrates general features of behaviour, especially its organization and evolution. On the organizational front there are quite a few surprises. The question "How on earth does the animal do that?" can often be answered by listing just a few precise instructions. Natural selection has produced a more elegant computer program than we would be likely to think up ourselves if asked to achieve the same ends.

On the evolutionary side, Hansell has it all going for him, for the variety of adaptive devices that animals build are a sheer delight. To return to the spiders, not all of them make circular "orb" webs, but some make extravagantly long ladder webs and others simple nets. Some of the latter are built so that they break at particular points when an insect flies into them, but the insect itself remains tethered by means of some super-goo of the spider's making – until it is hauled in and eaten. There are spiders that avoid being eaten themselves by constructing false webs which decoy away from the centre of the web; in others the strength of the web seems just right so that it breaks if and only if it is too small and tight, but retains those that are fly and tasty.

All in all, the subject provides a veritable feast of such examples; and it is perhaps these above all that make this book a joy to read.

P. J. B. Slater

P. J. B. Slater is Kennedy professor of natural history at the University of St Andrews.

BOOKS

POLITICS

Ground level

Comparative Government and Politics: essays in honour of S. E. Finer
edited by Dennis Kavanagh and Gillian Peele
Heinemann Educational, £22.50
ISBN 0 435 83470 3

Shortly before he retired from the Gladstone Chair of Government and Public Administration in Oxford Professor Samuel Edward Finer expressed the view that political science had often failed in the pursuit of its objectives partly through being unable to decide what they were. Yet, he thought, at a modest workaday level professional students of government had added substantially to our stock of information, so that we now know more than we did about certain kinds of political behaviour – for example that of voters, pressure groups and military regimes. The contents of this volume of essays written in his honour support the accuracy of his diagnosis. Almost all of them operate closer to grand theory than to grand theory; and a number of them pursue lines of investigation along which Finer himself has worked.

One such area is the comparative analysis of constitutional provisions. Here Gillian Peele in an essay on "Comparing Constitutions" suggests that the character of a constitutional system is seen not merely in its law but in its complex of attitudes, assumptions, prejudices and practices that may be regarded as constitutional culture. A. V. Dicey would have shared this view, though possibly dissenting from the assertion that Britain's membership of the EEC has "shattered whatever is left of his doctrine of Parliamentary Sovereignty", feeling perhaps that quite a lot is left here and there. He would also, however, have understood well enough Gillian Peele's conclusion that in Britain much constitutional argument falls into the mould of everyday politics. That has happened with many civil liberties questions, with the control of the police and with



S. E. Finer

the Bill of Rights issue. De Tocqueville's remark about the United States seems to operate in reverse. "Sooner or later all judicial questions turn into political questions. Discuss" (as we examiners of the ancient regime often say).

The question of the adversarial nature of British politics in general is taken up by David Robertson in an essay on public opinion and electoral cleavage. He does not believe that adversarial party politics and a divisively inequitable electoral system have damaged the polity and disturbed a potential electoral consensus. There is, for one thing, he says, no electoral system whatsoever that would produce a Parliament willing to reintroduce hanging and ban all black immigration. This seems to suggest the possibility of a different adversarial model displaying a cleavage not between the major parties, but between the electorate and its representatives: there being seemingly more in common between two deputies one of whom is a reactionary than between two reactionaries one of whom is a deputy.

Hugh Berrington, in "British Government: The Paradox of Strength", discusses yet another adversarial tension, namely the mutual antagonism of government and organized interest groups. British governments, both Conservative and Labour, though often characterized as strong in comparison with the executive branches of systems subject to separation of powers

ers or federal divisions, are, he argues, inherently too weak to resist the demands of pressure groups especially trade union groups and the government's own civil servants. The remedy, he suggests, may lie in formal constitutional guarantees to protect selective public services from popular pressure and political interference. There is some evidence that the present Prime Minister has already taken some of this to heart and indeed might well be persuaded to look more favourably at proposals for a Bill of Rights if presented as necessary to protect the rights of government against the citizen rather than vice versa.

In "The Government Formation Process in the Monarchies of North West Europe" Vernon Bogdanor surveys the constitutional devices adopted in the Netherlands and Scandinavia to assist the head of state in the choice of a head of government. In Belgium and Holland the Crown is assisted by an *informateur* and in Sweden since 1974 the job has been done by the Speaker. Even more traditional monarchies may be moving in this direction. In Australia Mr Gough Whitlam has argued that the royal prerogative is too dangerous an instrument to be wielded by the Crown and that the function should be conferred on a panel of important office holders, possibly judges. In Britain Mr Tony Benn has stated a preference for the Swedish system (but should the Speaker be unwilling or unavailable it might be necessary to fall back on the Archbishop of Canterbury or a politically-jencked episcopal committee). Most of the essays pursue a comparative theme. Jack Hayward analyses pressure groups in Britain and France and Jean Blondel discusses the phenomenon of dual leadership in executive government.

Dennis Kavanagh contributes a biographical sketch and bibliography. None of his former and present colleagues will need that to remind them of the range and variety of Professor Finer's writings embracing administrative history, local government, political sociology, party and parliamentary behaviour, political biography and comparative government. Not all these interests are reflected here but many are. It is good to have this collection of essays as a tribute to one of the founding fathers of British political studies – an inventive scholar whose invention happily continues.

Geoffrey Marshall

Geoffrey Marshall is a fellow of Queen's College, Oxford.

Goods and chattels

Property and Political Theory
by Alan Ryan
Blackwell, £15.00
ISBN 0 631 13691 6

Justifications of ownership, the question of whether to favour a socialist or a non-socialist emphasis in the organization of the economy, and the distribution of property rights, are once again topics at the forefront of attention in political theory. But there has been till now a shortage of good book-length treatments of the subject.

Alan Ryan's book is organized around the framework of a history of philosophical thought about property since the seventeenth century. There are chapters on Locke, Rousseau, Kant, the utilitarians Bentham and James Mill, Hegel, Marx and John Stuart Mill, and a final chapter provocatively entitled "Why Are There So Few Socialists?". In recent years, the theory of property – Locke's theory in particular – has provided the occasion for hermeneutical reflection on the difficulties of bringing political thought out of its past context into relation with modern political thinking.

Ryan acknowledges at the beginning of his book that where there is a conflict between the demands of philosophical argument and the historical sensitivity – when, for example, exploring the implications for us of what is generally taken to be the Lockean view of the seventeenth-century context of *Two Treatises of Government* – he professes the former. Ryan is convinced that we should approach these texts in the spirit of reconstructing a dialogue across time about problems of common practical concern. That emphasis may worry some historians of ideas, but it does not, however, lead him to

emphasize that Ryan shares this conviction with all the thinkers he is writing about. They wrote as though their arguments were intended to transcend their context – with one eye to the received understanding of previous thought about property, and with the other on the way in which their own ideas might be received in philosophical discussions in the future.

The emphasis on argument means that *Property and Political Theory* is much more than a collection of historical essays. Ryan uses two main themes to unite his discussions. The first is the relationship between ownership and work. That productive work creates some sort of "natural" entitlement to its product has been commonplace at least since medieval times. Largely on account of the enormous influence of Locke's theory of modern discussion, and, as Ryan points out, conservative thinkers have had to strive mightily to defuse its radical implications. Both work and ownership may be viewed in different ways. They may be viewed instrumentally – work as a means to the production of goods, ownership as a means to the derivation of utility – or they may be viewed as intrinsically important – work as a potentially fulfilling *labor* or *animal laborans* (Ryan unfortunately does not explore Hans-Georg Arendt's account of this distinction in *The Human Condition*), ownership as the assertion of oneself and the objectification of one's liberty in a material environment. This contrast between instrumental and non-instrumental accounts of property forms the basis for the second main theme of Ryan's discussion. There is no doubt in my mind that these are the themes that need emphasis. A clearer and more illuminating discussion of Rousseau and Hegel's treatment of property than we have ever had in English before.

There is a third theme that might also be emphasized. If work or ownership are seen as morally important aspects of human fulfillment, it makes sense perhaps to talk of a universal right to work or a universal right to own. As P. J. Proudhon put it, if human liberty is sacred it is sacred in all individuals, and if it needs property rights for its objective realization, it follows that having property is equally necessary for all. That many are in fact left effectively propertyless shows that the connexion between property and liberty is not really taken as seriously as capitalist rhetoric would suggest. On the other hand, if work and human welfare, then the most that can be said on behalf of all individuals is that each has a right to the satisfaction of his needs from whatever property system is in force. Individual rights to actually own things will be of marginal importance: they will be "special" rights accruing for some particular individuals from historical accident or specific desert, but they will not have the primary or universal importance that a general right to property would have on the non-instrumental approach.

It is a virtue of Ryan's discussion that it opens up space for the consideration of these issues. Neither pedantically historical nor obsessively rigorous, it is written in the expansive and relaxed style so characteristic of its author. That makes it a readable and accessible discussion. But Ryan has also achieved a depth of insight into the problem of property – a leavened, often provocative, with clear common sense – that is very rare. If productive labour generates property rights, then Ryan's book is entitled to be regarded as indispensable reading on its subject, as well as a model of what lucid work in political theory ought to be like.

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Jeremy Waldron

Dr Waldron is lecturer in philosophy at the University of Edinburgh.

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BOOKS

POLITICS

Leading cases

The Attorney General, Politics and the Public Interest

by John L. J. Edwards
Sweet and Maxwell, £30.00
ISBN 0 421 30180 5

Twenty years ago John Edwards produced in *The Law Officers of the Crown* a study of the offices of Attorney General, Solicitor General and Director of Public Prosecutions. This equally scholarly and wide-ranging new book is designed as a companion volume rather than a second edition of the 1964 work and the invaluable 35-page index takes account of both publications.

Although John Edwards has been a professor at the University of Toronto for a number of years he has retained close contacts with the United Kingdom, and the emphasis in the new book remains principally upon this country. In essence he is concerned with the conventions of openness, fairness and impartiality associated with the office of Attorney General, and the discussion of the political ramifications of the actions of successive law officers in the period 1964-1984 leads the author into a critical assessment of several well-known cases or controversies.

There is material on the *Gouriet* (Union of Post Office Workers) case of 1977, on the trial of Jeremy Thorpe, on the litigation over the Crossman Diaries, and on the thalidomide case, *Clay Cross*, Dr Leonard Arthur, Anthony Blunt, and Leila Khalid. There is treatment of the royal prerogative, statutory provision for consent to prosecutions, independent pro-

secutors, tribunals of inquiry, contempt of court, discretionary factors in prosecutions, and jury vetting. Professor Edwards does not hesitate to inject strong views about the constitutional role and responsibilities of the Attorney General, and where these have been crossed he does not hesitate to say so. He has been meticulous in delving into the background of many of the events under scrutiny; and the well-stocked footnotes provide fascinating glimpses of incidental issues and historical parallels.

Parallels are also drawn in the text with events in other countries, especially the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Hence there are discussions or echoes of Watergate, of the McDonald Commission in Canada, of the resignation of the Australian Attorney General (Robert Ellicott) in 1975, and of the so-called *Superannuation Act* case of 1976 in New Zealand. For the United Kingdom itself special attention is given to Scotland (with some reference to the Glasgow rape case) and Northern Ireland (with particular reference to prosecutions).

Constitutional principles, of course, are never easy to identify or explain, and in his discussion of many of the topics Professor Edwards has to take account of political accountability and expectations as well as of narrower legal doctrine and legal tradition. A good example is the *Gouriet* case, where the House of Lords provided a "resounding reaffirmation" of "the Attorney General's position as the Crown's principal agent for enforcing public rights." There is no doubt here because of his view about the scope for judicial questioning of prerogative powers and because of his leaning towards the views of Mr S.M. Silkin (the then Attorney General) on the appropriateness of judicial intervention in the particular circumstances of the planned anti-apartheid action of the Union of Post Office Workers. Despite the passions generated in 1977, however, the *Gouriet* case has lost some of its significance (save on the general issues of the Attorney General's accountability) in the light of more generous rules of standing

subsequently allowed in administrative law; and, even at the time, the attitude of the House of Lords was to no small extent influenced by unease at allowing the enforcement of the criminal law through civil proceedings. Indeed, the variety of approaches one could adopt with regard to one case alone seems to underline the complexity of Professor Edwards' task throughout the book.

It is to his credit that he succeeds in blending clear descriptions of the cases and events with balanced retrospective assessments of what the law officers and others had been up to at the time. We hear of Lord Denning's "familiar burst of rhetoric" in one case and of his "colourful language" in another; we are told of a newspaper columnist's "atrocious observation" on an Attorney General's handling of one controversy and of a legal commentator's "misrepresentation" of the law officers' role in another; and we are left no doubt as to the author's considered judgment on standards of conduct and channels of accountability.

This work will undoubtedly provide excellent additional comment and information for studies of constitutional law, administrative law, and criminal law and procedure; and, in addition, it is a major study in its own right of the political and legal controversies associated with the work of the law officers. A concluding chapter, tying together the strands of so many different problems dealt with in the book, would perhaps have been desirable, though one accepts that a summary of views might mislead and that a mere tabulation of events could be unhelpful. The sensitivity of the Attorney General's role and the manner in which successive law officers have sought to reconcile political affiliations with independent assessments of the public interest emerge cumulatively and effectively. We are fortunate to have been provided with a worthy successor to *The Law Officers of the Crown*.

D. G. T. Williams

D. G. T. Williams is Rouse Ball Professor of English Law at the University of Cambridge, and president of Wolfson College.

Joint venture

The Politics of Economic Policymaking
by Wyn Grant and Shih Nath
Blackwell, £18.50 and £6.95
ISBN 0 85520 750 7 and 751 5

Despite the widespread existence and popularity of undergraduate joint degree schemes in economics and politics, it is quite rare to find an account of the economic policy process written jointly by an economist and a political scientist. One approaches this book, then, with high hopes. These are partly, but not wholly, fulfilled.

Wyn Grant and Shih Nath begin with a brief description of the traditional view of economic policy-making in terms of objectives and instruments. Chapter two is a succinct account of the various centres of power in policy formation: the city, transnational companies, the trades unions, the Treasury, the politicians. Chapters three to five summarize the theories of Pareto optimality, of Keynesian interventionism (with brief remarks on post-Keynesian extensions by way of the Phillips curve and the implications of foreign trade) and of monetarism. These chapters are admirably clear and brief, but may prove hard-going, pace the preface, to those who "lack a formal training in economics".

The remainder of the book — described by the authors as its "central part" — is basically an assessment of the "monetarist experiment" in Britain. It is at this point that a certain unease sets in. I am entirely sympathetic to the authors' plain and consistent view that this episode of UK economic policy has no convincing economic rationale and has proved disastrous in its practical effects. But whereas, from a collaboration of this kind, one might have expected an account of the political pressures leading to the adoption of monetarist policies, we simply have a diatribe against the Conservative Government's actions since May 1979. The shrill tone of these chapters may be judged by remarks such as "Not content with having thrown out of the full employment objective, the present Conservative leadership appears to be seeking to replace it by the objective of low inflation".

undermining the welfare state as well". But, to be fair, the present Government apparently does believe — however mistakenly, and despite all the cant about "real" jobs — that its policies are designed to maximize employment in the long run.

Even more worrying, given the authors' intention to explain the political context of economic policy-making, is their assumption that the monetarist experiment began with the election of the Conservatives in 1979. In fact, the experiment dates from at least 1976 and perhaps from 1975. Thus Mr James Callaghan at the Labour Party conference of October 1976: "We used to think that you could spend your way out of a recession by cutting taxes and boosting Government spending. I tell you in all candour that that option no longer exists..." And as early as the 1975 Budget, Mr Denis Healey remarked that "the Budget judgment is conventionally seen as an estimate of the amount of demand which the Government should put into the economy..." I do not propose to adopt this approach today. The conversion of the Labour Government to monetarism — or at least to the rejection of Keynesian demand management — is a far more interesting problem of political economics than Thatcherism, yet it is wholly ignored here.

More generally, the problem with the second half of this book is its ephemeralism. We learn very little about the political background to economic policy-making before 1979 and, consequently, little about the likely political context to be expected in the future. It is, one hopes, inconceivable that the influence of the Liverpool loonies will dominate policy-making for much longer. To take 1979-84 (or even 1976-84) as a case study is reasonable. To take that episode as the only example of political economics is really not adequate.

Furthermore, the roles of the various centres of power discussed earlier are not systematically analysed in the formation of economic policy even over the last ten years. To take just a few examples, the politics of the approach to the International Monetary Fund in 1976, changes in the economic criteria applied to nationalized industries, changes in the role of the National Economic Development Council, the political significance of attitudes to the level of the exchange rate, and many more, receive only the

most cursory attention. Yet it is just such questions which one might expect to be explored more fruitfully in a cooperative work like this than in one by an economist alone, no matter how politically aware he might be. One reason for this, I suspect, is that the book gives the impression of having been written in alternative sections by the economist (Nath) and the political scientist (Grant) rather than in a fully integrated way.

Economic policy is too important to be left to politicians and the political and institutional context is too important to be left to economists. Grant and Nath have set an example, despite one's disappointments, which deserves to be followed in a more considered way. As a polemic, their book is highly readable and the bibliography — mainly relating to the post-1970 period — is extensive and up-to-date.

M. J. C. Surrey

M. J. C. Surrey is professor of economics at the University of Leeds.

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BOOKS

POLITICS

Partisan sources

Cambodia 1975-1982

by Michael Vickery
Allen & Unwin, £17.50 and £7.95
ISBN 0 86861 624 9 and 560 9
The Rise and Demise of Democratic Kampuchea
by Craig Echeson
Frances Pinter, £14.95
ISBN 0 86531 650 3

Two books published during 1977, *Cambodia 1975-1982* and *Murder in a Gentle Land*, provided the earliest detailed accounts of the horrors which followed the 1975 victory of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. The first, by a Catholic missionary Father Ponchaud, who had worked for ten years among Cambodians, was based on personal experience and the accounts of later refugees. It bore poignant witness to his distress over what had befallen a people for whom he had developed a deep affection. The second book was the work of two American journalists, John Barron and Anthony Paul, and reflected the professional skills they had brought to their investigation. Of course these books dealt only with the military takeover of the country and its immediate aftermath. The two books currently under review carry the story down to 1982 and encompass the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge regime at the end of 1978, the military occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam, and the years of the Vietnamese-installed Heng Samrin Government.

In many respects these books are very similar: both are written by American scholars, are painstakingly researched, and employ the methodology of the PhD thesis — and, on occasion, the gobbledygook which appears to be an indispensable part of this. They deal with the same period and, to a most surprising degree, rely heavily on the same written sources, as their copious footnotes testify. Indeed, the two authors repeatedly cite a small number of books and articles, some of them of very dubious objectivity, so that the reader is left with the impression that he is being offered the views of a small coterie of politically motivated writers who between them monopolize the study of current Cambodian affairs. Unlike the books mentioned in the previous paragraph, these two concern themselves less with the overall sweep of events than with often minute details, which makes them



Khmer Rouge soldier in Cambodia, 1980

better suited to the narrow specialist than the general reader.

Developments inside Cambodia have made normal research techniques impossible because the Khmer Rouge regime excluded all foreigners, with the exception of some Chinese and Korean specialists. There is no Public Records Office, no official documents, and no possibility of unrestricted *visu* investigation. While the Vietnamese occupation authorities are tireless in revealing newly discovered evidence of Khmer Rouge atrocities, there is no means of checking whether this is genuine or fabricated, and they exclude from Cambodia all save those whom they deem favourably disposed towards their own political objectives or the bringers of economic aid. Consequently, all who wish to write about modern Cambodia must make what they can of such evidence as is available.

Michael Vickery makes his standpoint very clear. He insists that "Americans who could not view the developments [the Khmer Rouge victory] with at least qualified optimism should shut up" and evinces most interest in "people whose experiences were different from the stories which had been given prominence in the international press". He is throughout sharply critical of Father Ponchaud and Barron and Paul, and he seeks to excuse Khmer Rouge actions, offering possible reasons for these which say more for his ingenuity than his sense of reality. However, he frequently redeems himself by admitting that there was, nevertheless, much cruelty and inhumanity. Of the Vietnamese, though, and the regime they installed, he can find nothing but good to say, so that readers may wonder why the United Nations regularly condemn their occupation and has issued a resolution calling for their withdrawal, or why so many refugees continue to flee.

More critical of the Khmer Rouge

and the Vietnamese communists, Craig Echeson also brings too little scepticism to bear on his written sources and accepts their sometimes partisan view far too readily. His is the more difficult book to read, but occasionally his detached academic style heightens the awfulness of what he is saying, though I suspect that is accidental. Take, for example, the sentence: "Information regarding rice production in Democratic Kampuchea is still subject to dispute, but the country's ability to feed itself over this period likely improved, if only because there were progressively fewer people to feed."

Both books fail to examine what was happening in the neighbouring countries, a serious omission when so much of what took place in Cambodia was caused by, or was a reaction to, events in those countries. Vickery suggests similarly between the political, economic, and social structures of pre-1970 Cambodia and Thailand (a judgment which can only engender astonishment in anyone familiar with the two) and he also fails to take account of the influence exercised by either China or Vietnam upon Cambodian developments. Echeson mentions in passing that the artillery attacks during the final siege of Phnom Penh were Vietnamese, though Vietnamese troops received no other mention in the fighting. Again, he contrasts the Khmer Rouge agrarian reform with the gradual and peaceful one in Vietnam, but the truth is Vietnam's agrarian reform caused hundreds of thousands of deaths, rocked the Communist Party to its foundations, provoked peasant revolts, and made necessary the sacking of top communist leaders.

P. J. Honey

P. J. Honey is reader in Vietnamese studies in the University of London.

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False promise

Politics and the Pursuit of Happiness
by Ghita Ionescu
Longman, £16.50
ISBN 0 582 29549 1

In *The Future of Socialism* Tony Crosland made the rather incautious remark that the task of politics is the removal of all sources of discontent. Professor Ionescu's new book is a root and branch attack on what he takes to be the deformation of politics produced by inflated accounts of the possibility of producing human happiness by political action.

Politics and the Pursuit of Happiness is an untypical work in British political studies, because in it the author not only speaks his mind but opens his heart. He is convinced that the dominant modes of political action in East and West informed respectively by Marxism-Leninism and utilitarian liberalism embody an ideological hubris promising happiness (although understood in different ways) and neglecting the tragic and unresolvable nature of the human condition. Both political modes promise something unattainable — a form of human fulfillment secured by politics which, if we were more attentive to our condition and more aware of our fragility and mortality, we could see as a false promise. In this sense, therefore, the book is an assault on promissory politics and he

advocates a more neutral role for politics, that of attempting to secure the conditions for the mutual co-existence of citizens rather than an account in which basic human ends and purposes are to be realized through politics.

The central chapters of the book are concerned with discussing the ways in which both Marxism-Leninism and liberalism (of the utilitarian variety) both contain a promise of happiness to be secured by political action and struggle. In the case of the former human life is to be redeemed and humanity inaugurated by a communist society (of no clear shape or direction in Marx's account) in which alienation and fundamental differences between human beings are overcome. In the case of utilitarian liberalism happiness is to be understood in terms of satisfying wants.

Ionescu is quite clear that both of these creeds or ideologies cannot produce what they promise because they ignore what his hero, the Spanish thinker and poet Miguel de Unamuno, calls the tragic sense of life encapsulated in our consciousness of death, a consciousness which gives us a spiritual nature which cannot be captured, pursued or realized in the political realm. Indeed Ionescu is sure that John Stuart Mill's menu crises and his disenchantment with Benthamite utilitarianism was a recognition that the pursuit of material pleasures fails to do justice to our nature as freely self-conscious beings.

In the West, the church which might be thought to be the one institution which preserved a sense of our spiritual nature has itself succumbed to pressures within the culture to turn its message into an ideological, political one supporting social justice, racial emancipation and the like.

Nevertheless there are hopeful signs in his view that these ideologies have had their day. Neither Marxism nor utilitarianism can claim any sort of scientific guarantee, the experience of communist states to securing happiness through politics has not been notably successful; problems of the role of the state and decentralization, the planned economy versus self management which are at the heart of the Marxist strategy for human emancipation through politics are unresolved. While in the West problems of economic growth and the burgeoning of the welfare state have made promissory politics less plausible and there are signs of the growth of non-materialist values among the young.

In the light of all this Ionescu suggests a process of "disideologization" (a programme which might stand as a success if he could find a different word for it — it is unpromissory as it stands) which would concentrate upon two things. The first would be to attempt to develop a disinterested form of political judgment, the second would be to reduce the ideological input in political life and institutions and here Ionescu toys with the ideas of F. A. Hayek, Theodore Lowi, J. Haskins, Michael Young and Edward Heath all of whom have had ideas for lessening the role of party and hence ideology in political life. In a sense Ionescu is in favour of more politics and more citizen participation but he hopes that this will be based upon a more mature form of disinterested judgment embodying as far as possible a transnational perspective (nationalism itself being tainted by ideology) and based upon a clear view about the limits of politics in an imperfect and fallen world. The citizen will then he hopes view politics less in terms of how a party or a policy would further his interests and will be more concerned to negotiate the conditions of mutual co-existence.

Altogether this is a thought-provoking and refreshing book by someone who has made a major contribution to the study of European politics. Of course there are clear weaknesses in an ambitious argument. Ionescu neglects rights-based liberal theories which embody clear views about the limits to government and he neglects to discuss the extent to which the basic vocabulary in terms of which we discuss and characterize political life can be purged of ideological considerations. Nevertheless however much one may disagree with his thesis and the plausibility of the future he sketches one can learn a great deal from his views about the limitations on political expectation which would follow from what he sees as a more realistic appreciation of our condition.

Raymond Plant

Raymond Plant is professor of politics at the University of Southampton.

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All good men

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ISBN 003062599-8

Since the 1960s there have been such challenges to the two-party system in Britain and America that a group of distinguished political scientists met at Ditchley Park in 1981 to consider whether the decline of party had been as severe as sometimes suggested and whether the causes and the extent of this decline were similar in Britain and America. Vernon Bogdanor's updated edition of the papers presented at that conference can be used in two ways: as a valuable guide to the latest scholarly literature on the subject and as a summary of the concerns about current developments felt by a group of academics most of whose British members support the Liberal/SDP Alliance.

The main theme of the book is summed up by S. E. Finer: throughout western Europe and America we are witnessing "the slow, uneven, but ineluctable erosion of the once central position assigned to the political parties." Not only are electors becoming disillusioned with the established political parties, but the traditional policy-making and organizational functions of parties are also becoming marginal. Ivor Crewe and William Schneider present a battery of statistical indicators of the weakening party attachments of British and American voters: falling turnout, declining party identi-



Roy Jenkins in September, 1981.

fication, growing volatility, decreasing popularity of political leaders and burgeoning mistrust of government in general and of parties in particular. The "marginalization" of party members and supporters in election campaigns and the crucial role now played by television and by professional campaign consultants are also described in chapters by David Butler and Austin Ranney, and by Larry Sabato. However, recent changes have been complicated and several authors qualify the thesis of party decline. As Philip Williams argues, American parties, though weakened in some respects, have been strengthened in others. On the one hand, the traditional patronage-based city machines ("the old barons") have apparently crumbled. On the other hand, party organization has developed within Congress and the Democratic and Republican National Committees (the national party

bureaucracies) have become more important. In Britain the weakening of the established parties has led to the growth of the Alliance. Bogdanor reiterates the view that it is only the artificiality of the electoral system and of arrangements for funding parties that protects the Conservatives and Labour and blocks an Alliance breakthrough. In the United States, no lasting third party has developed, but this is simply because the system of primary elections (much extended since 1968) enables politicians who owe little to the party organizations ("mavericks") to capture nominations as Democratic or Republican candidates. When the existing parties can be manipulated, there is little point in setting up new ones.

Several contributors point out that the erosion of political participation and party membership has increased the influence of ideological activists who are unrepresentative of the passive majority of voters. In Britain, where the number of individual members of the Labour party has plummeted, those who remain have claimed a much increased say in the selection of parliamentary candidates and of the party leader. As Gerald Pomper asks, "Are 'participatory' parties democratic if the participants are few and unrepresentative?"

Pomper attributes the breakdown of the postwar system of moderate, pragmatic, class-based politics in both countries to social and economic change. He suggests that the gradual replacement of an industrial economy by a "post-industrial" service economy has led to the expansion of occupational groups - teachers and social workers, for instance - whose concerns are different from those of the traditional working or middle classes. Whereas many workers have ceased to participate in party activities, members of the post-industrial groups have become increasingly involved and are responsible for the growth of ideological extremism. "The party activists newly recruited are likely to be social workers or polytechnic graduates

rather than dockworkers".

There is a wealth of succinctly presented information and stimulating argumentation in this volume, but some of the conclusions need to be treated with caution. There is always a temptation to simplify and so to exaggerate the extent of change. For example, although there has been a growth of conviction politics and ideological discourse on both sides of the Atlantic, I feel that material incentives still motivate many of the activists to an extent which some of the authors fail to acknowledge. Patronage also remains important. Moreover, it is assumed too easily that the trends of today will continue indefinitely. In the early 1960s sociologists such as Daniel Bell and Seymour Martin Lipset wrote of the "end of ideology". It was thought that consensus politics was becoming the norm in the increasingly prosperous western democracies. It remains to be seen whether the present "growth of ideology" will prove more durable.

One vital area of apparent disagreement between British and American authors, hinted at but not fully explored in the book, is that of reform. To Bogdanor, many of the ills of Britain's system of increasingly ideological adversarial politics would be cured by a set of reforms, particularly proportional representation. Among American contributors there is greater scepticism about the efficiency of such institutional changes. The introduction of new rules for nominating Democratic presidential candidates, introduced after the 1968 convention, had unintended and unpleasant consequences: the reforms were designed to curtail the power of the old-time bosses; in the process they gravely weakened the party and gave excessive power to unrepresentative groups of ideological enthusiasts. It was an object lesson in the dangers of institutional engineering.

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky

Dr Pinto-Duschinsky is lecturer in government at Brunel University.

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BOOKS

POLITICS

Signed and sealed

The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, second edition
by Ian Sinclair
Manchester University Press, £29.50
ISBN 0 7190 1480 8
Current International Treaties
edited by T. B. Millar with Robin Ward
Croom Helm, £30.00
ISBN 0 7099 1758 9

In this imperfect world, the realities of international conduct and the attempts to regulate it according to rules of law remain perhaps further apart than ever. The shootings from the Libyan so-called diplomatic mission, and the attempted abduction of a drugged cat as "diplomatic cargo" on an airliner are just two recent examples in Britain of outrageous terrorism under the cloak of diplomatic immunity. Does the continued observance of international treaties hold out much hope when blatant violations constantly occur all over the world? Lord Salisbury, at the beginning of this century, warned against placing excessive reliance on treaties and their likely endurance in a rapidly changing world. Dean Acheson made the same point half a century later when he reflected "the problem was general and insoluble, lying in inescapable change of circumstances and of national leadership, and in the weakness of words to bind, especially when the rule of continued purpose is squeezed out of logic and their husks analysed to a daily logical extreme". Yet, seemingly paradoxically, the

thousands of treaties signed since 1945 continue to prove that regulating international conduct by treaties, despite their shortcomings, remains more indispensable than ever. Treaties do not only deal with the weightiest matters of state, such as the defence of the realm, but also with myriad detailed aspects of international intercourse whether relating to the movements of people, or commerce, or the exploitation of the world's resources above, on, or below the Earth. When it came to questions of interpretation of treaties, their validity or disputes about their application, customary international law was invoked and still is. But since January 27, 1980 a new treaty, which sets out an international agreement on the law of treaties, has come into force, namely the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties.

Work on it began in 1949, it was drafted and concluded finally at the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties which met in Vienna from 1968 to 1969, and as the author points out, the convention came into force after Togo, the thirty-fifth country to do so, acceded in December 1979.

In his second and revised edition of *The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties*, Sir Ian Sinclair takes his reader step-by-step through the convention. A distinguished lawyer and sometime legal adviser to the Foreign Office, Sir Ian writes with clarity and authority. He throws light on many related topics and his opinions are put forward forthrightly. He discusses the interaction between treaty and custom as sources of international law, and how the rules of the convention have been applied by international tribunals, and in doing so offers a critical and comprehensive analysis of the convention. Seemingly straightforward questions on the circumstances that would make a treaty invalid or how a treaty can be ended, or what constitutes duress, are shown here to be extraordinarily complex when it came to trying to reach agreement on definitions. Formulations which covered national differences could at times only be

agreed upon by allowing for ambiguities.

The usefulness of attempting to codify a law on treaties as against allowing uniformity of practice being achieved through the slow growth of custom, may remain open to question. Since, however, the development and codification of international law is going to continue under United Nations auspices, the usefulness of Sir Ian Sinclair's book is beyond doubt. It is not, however, a study intended for the general reader, but rather a specialist book for students of international law. As such it is likely to become the standard work.

By way of contrast, *Current International Treaties*, with its reproduction of some ninety important treaties currently in force, shortened and edited in places, is intended as a reference book for students in political science and international relations. Such books always have to strike a balance between text and commentary. The commentary here is very slight and arranging the majority of the treaties under two headings, "regional agreements" and "security treaties" does not illuminate their relationship to the world's diplomatic alignments as well as Keesing's *Treaties and Alliances of the World* (third edition 1981). Particularly useful, however, are the sections on the conventions of international diplomacy, reproducing the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and Consular Relations as well as on the Law of Treaties discussed above. Also convenient and valuable is the compilation of the various agreements and treaties brought together here under the heading of the control of nuclear weapons. Thus its main virtue is to provide in convenient form complete, or nearly complete, texts of ninety important treaties of current relevance.

J. A. S. Grenville

J. A. S. Grenville is professor of modern history at the University of Birmingham.

Matters of opinion

Commonsense and the Theory of International Politics
by John C. Garnett
Macmillan, £17.50 and £5.95
ISBN 0 333 35130 4 and 35131 2

The theory of international relations is perhaps the most diffuse and amorphous component of the academic study of politics today. There seems to be little consensus about where the core of the subject lies, and what the goal and method of theory in the international context is. One can sympathize therefore with John Garnett's effort to cure the bewilderment that the subject causes university students by making some "common-sense"

statements about it. Unfortunately, common sense, while it is useful as a weapon for deflating pretension and pedantry, does not provide a very solid basis for constructive academic thinking. Almost by definition it is hostile to the notion of welding ideas into a systematic and logical totality. Garnett's book suffers from this defect. It seizes on different issues and discusses them, but there is no attempt to provide an overall structure. In fact Garnett defines his work at the outset chiefly in negative terms. It is not, he says, an introduction or a textbook. Moreover, it "contains nothing of topical interest; it makes no attempt to push forward the frontiers of knowledge, and it reveals no new facts or insights about our current predicament". This scarcely encourages one to read on.

The lack of structure does not prevent a certain approach to the business of studying international politics from emerging. Garnett believes that international politics is not, and never can be, a scientific study. This is because human beings, unlike inanimate matter, are determined mainly by their thoughts, ideas and values. Students must know "not what the world is really like, but what people think the world is like".

On the other hand Garnett strenuously denies that students should attempt to assess the validity of the values that guide human beings. Values are merely emotional facts. "In terms of their truth and falsity all values are equal". In a remarkable but typical sentence Garnett states that "it is not very profitable for the student of international politics to worry too much about the validity or truthfulness or even the internal coherence of the facts, rules, ideas, concepts, values which, taken together, make the images of reality relevant to an understanding of international politics". On the following page he continues: "In a sense... the problem of truth is not one with which the student of international politics needs to concern himself".

This seems to leave the student of international politics simply describing the ideas that people have about it but not in any way entering into the substantive question of what the essence of twenty essays by Ellis Kedourie has been published by Macmillan at £16.95. *The Crossman Essays in Politics, History and Religion* ranges widely in subject matter, including essays on conservatism, foreign affairs, his-

ence of this world is, Garnett appears at times to believe this. At one point he writes that when academics "have to the best of their ability accurately described the world as it is, they have completed their task; they can go no further". Here theory seems to have completely disappeared.

A little later, however, the work of description is made more complicated because Garnett dissolves the facts of international politics into "no more than the personal selections and plausible constructions of historians who, in recreating the past, are engaged in an imaginative venture more akin to that of a creative writer than a scientific reporter". All we have are different perspectives. "It would be wrong therefore to suggest that one historical interpretation is truer than another".

A little later again Garnett suggests that the student of international politics ought not simply to gather perspectives but to engage in "conceptual analysis". He refrains from giving a direct and explicit account of what this entails, saying that it is best picked up from the writings of "those who have been good at it". It involves the acquisition of a "sophisticated approach" to the language of politics, an awareness of the different ways concepts are used in practice. However, the student should not deceive himself into thinking that one interpretation of a concept can be shown to pre-empt another.

These excerpts give the flavour of Garnett's approach. His main concern seems to be to prevent students from being unduly "worried" by the theory rather than to show theory's positive significance and relevance. His repeated message - expressed in a breezy, no-nonsense style - is that people look at the world of international politics in different ways and that students should be aware of these different ways, but they should not lose a moment's sleep over trying to determine which of them is the "true" ways.

Murray Forsyth

Murray Forsyth is reader in international politics at the University of Leicester.

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BOOKS

On the wane

Labour and Society in Britain 1918-1979
James E. Cronin
Basingford, £17.50 and £8.95
ISBN 07134 4395 2 and 4396 0

The parlous state of the Labour Party has provoked much controversy and debate in recent years. Historians and sociologists have sought in particular to explain why the forward march of Labour appears to have come to a halt in the 1980s. Following Labour's defeat in the 1959 general election it was fashionable to suggest that the rising affluence of the workers had weakened their commitment to the party. It is now the conventional wisdom that Labour's decline is due to the decomposition of the working class. Yet such interpretations offer only gloomy prognoses of Labour's political future and it is thus refreshing to find that a more amiable explanation of events has now appeared.

James Cronin's new book offers a detailed examination of the pattern of industrial relations, the changing social structure and the political events which have shaped modern British history. His concern has been to establish how social change is transmitted into political action. In the case of the Labour Party he suggests that the changing social structure has generally favoured its development since 1919.

Why then should the Labour Party be in crisis? Cronin's answer is that it has not responded to the social changes which have occurred since the late 1940s. During the interwar years it developed a set of socialist reformist policies which were based upon the concrete demands of the working-class communities. Between 1945 and 1948 Atlee's Labour government implemented some of these policies in a social democratic programme which gave birth to the welfare state. But as a result of its new-found citizenship the

working class began to demand more material gains and the continuance of economic growth. Traditional working-class communities began to modify their economic outlook and became more acquisitive as they saw the possibility of acquiring new consumer items. In addition, the working class reshaped itself as new industrial groups emerged and as more women entered the workforce. The social and economic changes did not weaken the working-class commitment to the Labour Party. Rather it was the Labour Party which permitted its working-class support to wane by default. Denied of social policies after the creation of the welfare state it perceived the need to develop new policies to meet the rising economic and social expectations of the working classes but simply responded with the demand for Clause Four and the remnants of traditional working-class policy. This political analysis was partly the result of working-class institutions failing to represent the views of the changing workforce and partly due to division between left and right: "the right saw social change creating a mass base for political moderation and welcomed it, the left saw it in the same way and lamented it". The pertinent social policies of Anthony Crosland and Hugh Gaitskill were thus stifled at birth.

What of the future? To Cronin, the message is simple: the Labour Party has to offer the type of policies which will convince the working class, and some of the middle class, that it can continue to provide economic and social progress.

There are many strengths in this book. It is well-documented, written in a lucid and effective manner and offers an original thesis. Cronin is very persuasive and has made a seminal contribution to future debate. Yet its polemical approach will annoy many readers whose political leanings point them in other directions. There will be those who question Cronin's assumption that traditional working-class and socialist policies cannot save the Labour Party. There will be others who will be disappointed that this book finishes in 1979, thus largely ignoring the implications which the emergence of the Social Democratic Party holds for the future of the Labour Party.

Keith Laybourn

Keith Laybourn is senior lecturer in history at Huddersfield Polytechnic.

Spoilt by success

Japan and the Asian Pacific Region: profile of change
by Shibusawa Masahide
Croom Helm for the Royal Institute of International Affairs, £17.95
ISBN 0 7099 2274 4

Spectacular and sustained success in operating a capitalist economy has understandably won Japan the admiration of the right everywhere. A state which refuses to produce, possess or allow others to install on its territory any nuclear weapons, which abstains from the profits of the arms trade and which consistently takes a non-military stance in international affairs ought also to be the darling of the left. This has not so far been the case. Moreover, Japan has experienced both the displeasure of the United States for contributing too little to its own defence and the suspicions of its Asian neighbours that a revival of Japanese militarism is only a matter of time.

In Shibusawa Masahide's words, by the 1970s "the Japanese had discovered, to their dismay, that economic power alone does not necessarily lead to international status and respectability" and that "economic power without adequate political support can make a nation more, rather than less, vulnerable". Yet Shibusawa also shows that it would be premature for envious observers to feel relief that there is at least one problem to which the Japanese have found no solution.

Japan and the Asian Pacific Region offers not only a remarkably lucid and concise analysis of the region's international politics during the past forty years but a thesis as to its implications for the Japanese in their quest for status and security commensurate with their economic achievements. He sees the priority given to economic policy and the relative indifference to international politics as Japan's reaction to

having lost an empire and to being denied any new international role save that of an American base for the containment of Communist China. Japanese apolitical attitudes made them slow to respond to the changes in Asia brought about by the American failure in Vietnam, Nixon's Sino-American rapprochement of 1971. Discard the growth of the anti-Japanese movements in South East Asia, and the oil shock of 1973 eventually forced Japanese leaders to realize how vulnerable and isolated they were.

As well as developing a new relationship with China, they turned increasingly to the Association of South East Asian Nations, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand had not only followed Japan on the path of rapid economic growth but had displayed enough political and diplomatic skills to win ASEAN, little regarded when it was formed in 1967, growing prestige and influence. The ASEAN governments welcomed Fukuda's undertaking in 1977 that Japan would not become a military power, would seek an equal and "heart-to-heart" partnership with ASEAN members and would develop mutual understanding between Japan and Indochina. Shibusawa sees this as part of the process by which Japan may at last find a satisfying role firmly within the new Asian order, using its wealth and expertise to help steadily and constructively in helping to stabilize relations between the communist and non-communist areas.

Optimistic books about international politics are rare, and this one is refreshingly free from wishful thinking. If Japan does learn how to wield great power abroad without becoming a great power, it will have achieved a political miracle as impressive as its economic one.

David Gillard

Dr Gillard is senior lecturer in modern history at the University of Glasgow.

Selected for the elite

Leadership in the British Civil Service: a study of Sir Percival Waterfield and the creation of the Civil Service Selection Board
by Richard A. Chapman
Croom Helm, £16.95
ISBN 0 7099 3402 5

Sir Percival Waterfield became First Civil Service Commissioner in 1939, and almost immediately began developing his ideas for a board to select higher civil servants. He was partly prompted by a conflict with the Foreign Office over their plans for postwar recruitment but was also much influenced by the War Office Selection Board (WOSB) method of selecting officers. The years that follow, as Richard A. Chapman shows in this splendid study, reveal a number of quite remarkable yet typical features of our Civil Service at work.

First, there is an enormous amount of discussion between top civil servants about the problems of selecting the right sort of recruit. As the months and years go by Sir Percival is indefatigable in producing memoranda and having exchanges with his top level colleagues. Most were opposed to what he was trying to do. Second, Ministers hardly ever feature in these discussions. As Chapman puts it:

The closed politics of Whitehall permeated every facet of official life in the development of the Civil Service Selection Board. When tension declined between the Civil Service Commission and the Foreign Office it seemed to increase between the Civil Service Commission and the Treasury. The emergence of public policy in this situation was almost entirely the preserve of officials, not of politicians.

Norman Crowther-Hunt

Lord Crowther-Hunt is Rector of Exeter College, Oxford.

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BOOKS

A poetry of politics

Rousseau: dreamer of democracy
by James Miller
Yale University Press, £25.00
ISBN 0 300 03044 4
The Sexual Politics of Jean-Jacques Rousseau
by Joel Schwartz
University of Chicago Press, £14.45
ISBN 0 226 74223 7

Rousseau, the most imaginative political thinker since Plato, was acutely aware of the potency of images in politics, and the power of his political theory lies as much in the vision it manifests as in its strictly theoretical arguments.

In *Rousseau: dreamer of democracy* James Miller argues that his crucial accomplishment was the creation of a myth of democracy, a vividly imagined millennium of freedom and harmony achieved through popular self-rule. "Democracy" before Rousseau was (as it has been since classical times) an opprobrious term for turbulent mob rule, while popular self-government was not on the political agenda even in his native city of Geneva. But the power of Rousseau's imagination emancipated him from tradition and political reality alike. As Miller's account of his relations with the real Geneva shows, Rousseau wove together in his creative reveries idealized images of that city and of the rural customs of Switzerland, together with the classical myth of Sparta and his own cravings for freedom and harmony: "he wrote a poetry of politics". Rousseau himself was content to go on living in imagination, making no attempt to translate his images into action. It was the French Revolution that gave them direct political relevance. In a careful examination of his influence on the revolutionaries, Miller shows that while Rousseau's political writings were little known before

the revolution, once it was under way they oriented the thinking of the political activists, providing them with a democratic Utopia to aim at. He and them engendered a new vision of secular redemption that is still with us, in which the happy, spontaneous freedom of the natural man is miraculously fused with the virtuous restraint of a harmonious community.

Miller's account is sympathetic but detached, acknowledging both the power of Rousseau's vision and its internal paradoxes and practical dangers. He pays attention to Rousseau's own doubts and hesitations, to the ways in which his attempts to be true to his experience produced inconsistencies in his ideas as well as haziness about the real world. The importance of this original and perceptive book, however, lies in its persuasive claim that their ambiguous situation "between dream and reality" is not so much a weakness of Rousseau's political writings as the principal source of their strength.

As Miller remarks, the tensions in

Rousseau's thought are among its most fruitful features. *The Sexual Politics of Jean-Jacques Rousseau* examines one such tension. Rousseau's ambivalent attitude to sexual relationships. There are, Joel Schwartz suggests, two radically different teachings on this subject in Rousseau's works. According to one, sex is a valuable agent of socialization, promoting mutual dependence between men and women; according to the other, it robs men of the freedom they enjoy in the state of nature by embedding them in relations of mutual domination. Sex is, in other words, intrinsically bound to power relations and hence to politics.

Schwartz is surely right to draw attention to the sexual connexions of Rousseau's political ambivalence between Spartan togetherness on the one hand and total individual independence on the other, though it is something of an overstatement to present this as "a hitherto neglected key to the understanding of Rousseau's work generally."

Although Rousseau's writings are notorious for some of the most blatantly male chauvinist remarks in modern literature, Schwartz goes to great lengths to treat with respect his views on the mutual dominance between men and women, and the power women can exercise by means of secret manipulation. According to Schwartz, contemporary opinion, particularly feminism, has been misled by one of Rousseau's two opposed teachings, namely the goal of radical self-sufficiency and emancipation from all ties. This fight from sex and society alike is not, however, a realistic goal for people in general, and Schwartz claims that we can learn more from Rousseau's other teaching, namely that differentiation and mutual domination between men and women can have positive as well as negative features.

The political implications of this position are not entirely clear, however, for the book ends with the admission that it is impossible to accept Rousseau's exclusion of women from public life, and that Rousseau himself provides no guidance on the extension of economic and political equality to women. This study of "sexual politics" therefore has less to say about politics than about sex.

Margaret Canovan

Dr Canovan is lecturer in politics at the University of Keele.



Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Creeds of our time

The Age of Ideologies: a history of political thought in the twentieth century
by Karl Dietrich Bracher
Weldon & Nicholson, £20.00
ISBN 0 297 78434 X

"Ideology" it has been said, "is the conversion of ideas into social levers". For five thousand years mankind has lived almost exclusively under one-man rule - usually monarchy; and this was acceptable, indeed was deemed natural, because it was traditional and justified by religion. Throned and altar is the norm in world history, republic and reason the great exception.

The demolition of religion and the emergence of political rationalism took place in the eighteenth century, but ideology as "ideas converted into social levers" is the product of our century. As to why, opinions differ. Bracher himself attributes it to the exhaustion of the religious sanction and the unending disunity of the modern world. Tradition having been destroyed, the religious and the religious regimes had to manufacture the intellectual basis for their support. One age is the age of ideology, affirms Bracher, because the new regimes require legitimization, because the growth of conventional has reinforced both the need and the capacity to satisfy it; and how they can utilize political ideas to legitimize and control their subjects.

In form, the present book is a history of the political ideas which since 1900 have entered politics as "the secularized redemption of our time. The first part, a history of the modern age, re-examines the scientific positivism and

certainly of the nineteenth century was assaulted or undermined from a dozen different directions; it is the story of the new subjectivism, the obliteration of the distinction between "I and It" that manifested itself in such diverse forms in Henri Bergson or Freud or Vilfredo Pareto but not least in physics and mathematics. This ground has been well trodden by others - by Stuart Hughes for instance in his *Consciousness and Society*, although Bracher ranges further. The section on "The Intervening Years" is more original. This befits the author, whose works on the fall of the Weimar Republic and the Nazi seizure of power are already classical. Though many others have written of ideology in this period, Bracher seems to me to be more sensitive than most. He distinguishes authoritarianism from fascism, and fascism from Nazism. In this period, as he sees it, the Great War and the economic and social convulsions that followed it allowed the political ideas of the "signpost" era to move into politics - and be taken over by it as the instruments of the new ruling orders.

The final part - "The Present: de-ideologization and re-ideologization" speaks to our time. Freed of the totalitarian and authoritarian incubus, liberalism and constitutionalism became the vigorous and successful norm. Fascism and national socialism were swept away - nowadays there are self-conscious fascist parties only in Spain and Italy, and even these serve chiefly as dreadful bogeys to rally the left. Only the neo-Marxist ideologies remain to throw down an ideological challenge. And this they have in increasing degree, dismissing constitutionalism, abusing liberalism, devaluing such concepts as "democracy" and "participation", and brazenly asserting that such terms as "totalitarianism" or "ideology" itself are nothing but rhetorical devices to discredit Marxist politics.

The dust-jacket describes Bracher's book as "provocative", perhaps so in that it espouses constitutionalism and defends liberalism against the weekly tide of radical and neo-Marxist literature that piles up in bookshops and

which has attained the dimension of a veritable counter-culture in the universities, let alone the bookshops, of Germany, France, Italy. "Provocative" therefore in the sense that the Bracher-type animal "... est méchant. Quand on l'attaque, il se défend".

But the mode of Bracher's "provocativeness" is worth noting. It would be most misleading to give the impression that the text of this book is written in a polemical style. Much the reverse: it is measured and sober. The "provocativeness" such as it is lies principally in the underlying message, which of course seems perverse to the ultras of the left, but it becomes explicit here and there in a score or so of sardonic and shrewd comments in the footnotes - and, every now and then, in a throwaway line or two in the text. The curt dismissal of Herbert Marcuse as an intellectual old hat, for instance, and the critique of Jürgen Habermas, and the acute - and true - remark, that for all this re-ideologization,

All that Europe seems to be capable of is a replay of developments set into motion elsewhere, notably in America and the third world: student revolts, anti-Vietnam movements and the politics of détente, and finally human rights initiatives and then once more, neo-conservative impulses from the New World.

The *Age of Ideology*, this synoptic survey of instrumental political ideas with its extensive bibliographical apparatus, its analytical rigour and its humanistic concern, well befits the international eminence of its author. To read it is a rich intellectual experience. If it has any "message", it is this. Our age is not witnessing the "end of ideology" but its re-birth. The new ideologies are not yet totalitarian: but they may well become so. Therefore beware!

S.E. Finer

S. E. Finer, formerly Gladstone professor of politics at the University of Oxford, is working on a general history of government.

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BOOKS

POLITICS

Shifting loyalties

Parties, Opposition and Society in West Germany
by Eva Kolinsky
Croom Helm, £18.95
ISBN 0 7099 1550 0

West Germany's political system is one of the most stable in Europe: its institutions are under no serious threat and they enjoy the widest confidence of its citizens. It may, nevertheless, become a rather more difficult country to govern in the next few years, as attitudes change, party loyalties shift and oppositional minorities acquire a pivotal position in legislatures.

In the history of the Federal Republic there has always been an adequate parliamentary majority for a coalition, whether for the Great Coalition between the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats in 1966-1969 or, more usually, for one incorporating the Free Democrats. This small party, which has been out of power for only nine of the Republic's 37 years, is now threatened with electoral extinction. In its place the Greens may quite possibly hold the balance of power, yet be unwilling to share in a coalition or indeed to accept any responsibility for running the state.

Dr Kolinsky does not speculate about these possibilities, nor about their consequences for the political system. What she sets out to do, and achieves with much factual detail and sympathetic understanding, is to explain the background to these developments. Four of her nine chapters deal with the parties individually and collectively, with a great deal of material on their organization, membership, financial and voting support. All of this information is undeniably useful, given that the (mainly German) sources for it are scattered and not easily available. It does not, however, make for very gripping reading: 'The change in government in 1982, when the Free Democrats switched partners, and the 1983 elections which confirmed the Kohl government in office, were a challenge to the parties individually and to existing constitutional conventions. It would have been most helpful if Dr Kolinsky had been more forthcoming on the effects of this change on the policies and prospects of the parties concerned.'

Yet one factor that does emerge from her account points very clearly towards the difficulties the parties are facing. The West German political class is becoming ever more professionalized and narrowly based. Political

clans and activists in all parties are overwhelmingly middle class, university-educated and employed in the public service and a few professions. The party most critically affected by this development is the Social Democratic Party, so much so that Dr Kolinsky is driven to conclude that it now constitutes 'two parties under one name and one organizational umbrella.'

These developments led on the one hand to increasing passivity among the great majority of citizens, on the other hand to growing discontent among a well-defined minority. It is Dr Kolinsky's chapters on rebels, dissenters and grumblers that are the most rewarding. Dissatisfaction with the system is concentrated at the extremes of the social scale, among those with the highest and the lowest educational qualifications. Paradoxically it is among the well-educated that dissent is likely to take the form of questioning established institutions and authorities and of trying to build alternative structures, whereas the uneducated are more likely to drift into pessimism and resignation. It is they, rather than the privileged dissenters, who are likely to provide the recruits for right-wing extremism.



Bonn, 1983: a Greens anti-NATO demonstration

Ritual conflict

The British Party System and Economic Policy 1945-1983
by A. M. Gamble and Stuart Walkland
Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press, £17.50 and £6.95
ISBN 0 19761174 0 and 876173 2

Over a sustained period of relative economic decline it has been tempting to search for a single all-embracing cause of Britain's malaise. Explanations have included the failure of economic theory, the failure of politicians to apply the theory correctly, the lack of leadership of the British national character. Other quite well-developed arguments involve the behaviour of large bureaucracies, the role of corporatism (the sharing of authority with corporate pressure

The similarities between the two groups are, however, considerable. Both appeal predominantly to the young. Sectionalism and small-group politics provide the home that the bureaucratized parties can no longer offer and, at the very extreme, there are violence and terror. The way left and right-wing utopian aspirations merged in the new party of the Greens is well brought out - though the right-wing element is now much reduced. This is illustrated above all by the Greens' involvement in the 'peace movement', which is discussed much too cursorily, given that defence is now the most divisive policy issue in West German politics.

Dr Kolinsky offers no way out of the present impasse, in which a cartel of professionalized parties, staffed by much the same kind of people as the bureaucracy, face anti-system opponents with few specific or constructive answers. But that is how it is.

Peter Pulzer

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rent strands of the adversary politics thesis. The first argues that the party system leads to ideological swings and considerable economic instability, caused largely by the reversal of policies as each new government takes office. The second strand proposes that instability is introduced by government attempts, in the period leading up to an election, to maximize votes, thereby inducing a political business cycle. The third strand is really quite different from the first two; it suggests that adversary politics actually leads to a broad consensus on major policy issues. This consensus is achieved because of the recognition that the party system could otherwise not work, and competition between parties thereby turns into ritualized conflict between the major leaders, rather than more serious discussion of policies. The rhetoric and debate creates competition around a few issues, to the neglect of many other important problems, and policy is decided in an atmosphere of secrecy.

Gamble quickly dismisses the second strand, on the ground that parties have not actually been successful in manipulating the economy to achieve votes; only in 1983 was a government re-elected after a full term in office. He then provides a fairly systematic analysis of stabilization policy, in terms of the objectives, instruments, and agencies of policy, concluding that experience since 1945 has been characterized mainly by slow secular change rather than party influence. The monetarist versus Keynesian debate was, Gamble argues, also part of the ritualized adversary politics, since the use of monetary targets began with a Labour government responding to external pressures. However, he concedes that industrial policy and government ownership have been subjects of more genuine adversary politics.

While Gamble's chapter makes a preliminary attempt to specify a theory and to collect a range of evidence which may be regarded as relevant, a totally different approach is used by Walkland. His chapter, ostensibly about national economic planning, is written in an assertive rather than an analytical style. Much of it is taken up with an opinionated and uninformative survey of earlier literature. It is stated that, 'on a deeper level, the adversarial thesis is simply justified', but the reader must search in vain for either analysis or depth. Even the writer of a foreword to the book says that 'Walkland's vehemence stems from his reluctance to adopt the quietist attitude of a non-prescriptive analyst'.

A final chapter, strangely entitled 'Conclusion', also contains entirely separate contributions from the two authors. There are no cross references between the chapters by Gamble and Walkland, and no evidence of collaboration. This seems perhaps to be a case of adversary, but non-communicating, authorship.

John Creedy

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Beginning at home

Decolonization in Britain and France: the domestic consequences of international relations
by Miles Kahler
Princeton University Press, £37.00 and £7.10
ISBN 0 691 07672 3 and 022240

The most important part of an empire's history, Richard Pares once wrote, was that concerned with the metropole proper. In fact the bulk of writing about decolonization after 1960 emanated from scholars who knew about events in particular dependencies, but whose acquaintance with metropolitan economics and politics was somewhat tenuous.

This made sense when it seemed that powerful anti-colonial nationalists afforded a sufficient explanation for the end of European empires. In recent years the evident fragility of third world politics has raised doubts that local political dynamics provide the key to the decolonization experience. Miles Kahler's book is part of a 'back to the metropole' tendency, elucidating the contrasts in British and French colonial change largely through the prism of domestic politics and culture. Above all, the author is concerned to utilize the theme of decolonization to test what happens when a great external issue cuts across the internal political life of a western democracy.

The technique adopted is to isolate chunks of historical material and subject it to political science analysis. The effect is a chilly and elliptical style from which the composition never really escapes, despite the dramatic quality of much of the material. More discerning is how the discussion of British and French decolonization is constrained within a theoretical framework (largely to do with 'exit', 'voice' and 'loyalty' as variables in party political culture) of a doubtful persuasiveness; the explanatory weight attaching to these nouns is not enhanced by their recurrent italicization (as with *class*, *markets* and *'purposive incentives'*). Yet again an analytical model, all too evidently imposed upon, rather than arising from, historical data simply becomes a caging device in which the author confines his readers as well as himself.

Such criticism apart, however, there is much of interest in this book, which is clearly based on a wide acquaintance with secondary works. Kahler's basic theme is that after 1945 there were forces at work tending to disengage metropolises from their colonial entanglements. In the British case, this disengagement proceeded with clinical efficiency; but in France the process was subject to bouts of instability and reversals. It is when discussing the latter that the treatment is most impressive. It is argued that the factional dynamics of the Fourth Republic brought most politicians to bang grimly to the lever of *Algérie française* as a means of integrating fringe constituencies; the traditional discontinuity between the authorities in Paris and overseas bureaucracies was a critical barrier to colonial reform; while French businesses operating in colonized areas were generally too state-dependent and undiversified to accept political change as easily as their British counterparts. De Gaulle's historic role was to dislodge the French right of its imperial baggage, and to hustle the metropolitan state into a redefinition of its essential concerns.

The merit of this work is that it throws a fresh focus on the specific attributes of the decolonizing metropole. The analytical scope is often excessively constrained. How French thinking on extra-European entanglements was affected by the emergence of the EEC is omitted almost entirely. Quite what considerations drove Anthony Eden into the Suez adventure, and how Harold Macmillan's support statecraft accommodated itself to the consequences of that debacle, are discussed only in transient fashion. Nevertheless, within its own arbitrary limits, Kahler's treatment of decolonization themes is a useful contribution to an expanding field of study.

R. F. Holland

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NOTICE BOARD



A retort leader at the Coalite Factory

Grimethorpe (a name Dickens might have invented had the village not already been there) lies just east of Barnsley, at the heart of the northern coalfield.

Patrick Sutherland began his photographic project there before the coal

dispute began; his images present a side of the community that has submerged beneath the headlines.

His photographs are on show at Norwich School of Art, where Patrick is Drinkley Fellow in photography for 1984/85.

Promotions

London: Personal professorships: Dr Nick Riley (cell pathology, University College); Dr Julia Polak (endocrine pathology, Royal Postgraduate Medical School); Dr Roger Wadsworth (experimental physiology, University College); Dr Michael Redwood (genetics, Chelsea College); Dr Martin Block (anthropology, LSE); Dr Francis Ashley (perinatology and preventive dentistry, United Medical and Dental Schools); Dr Ian Carruthers (aquarian development, City College); Dr Nicos Christofilidis (operational research, Imperial College); Dr Andrew Harvey (ecology, LSE); Dr Robert Syntex (information engineering, Imperial College); Dr David Lodge (veterinary medicine, Royal Veterinary College); Dr Raymond Gilling (physics, applied to medicine, United Medical and Dental Schools); Dr Mark Peppas (immunological medicine, Royal Postgraduate Medical School); Dr John Cornhill (pharmacology, Chelsea College); Dr John Palmer (plant biochemistry, Imperial College); Dr Richard Peck (social administration, City College); 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Research & Studentships continued

University of Oxford
Department of Engineering Science

RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN PLASMA PHYSICS

A Postdoctoral Research Assistantship funded by the Culham Laboratory of the U.K.A.E.A. is available from 1st January 1985 for a period of two years. The duties will be to carry out research on plasma boundary phenomena, with reference to fusion plasmas, and to take part in the teaching and administration of the M.Sc. course in the Sciences and Applications of Electric Plasmas.

The position will be on the Research Assistant Grade 1A scale (£7,190 to £11,015, according to experience and with membership of U.S.S.).

Applications, with curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent as soon as possible to Dr. J. H. D. J. Department of Engineering Science, Culham Laboratory, Oxford OX1 3FJ (05354).

German Historical Institute London STUDENTSHIPS

The German Historical Institute will award a number of studentships to enable British post-graduate students to pursue historical research in Germany for a doctoral degree. Applicants must have completed at least one year's post-graduate research and be studying German history or a related subject. A knowledge of the German language is also required. Other paid appointments or scholarships cannot be held during the tenure of the studentship.

The studentship, amounting to DM 1,300 per month, will begin on 1 July 1985 for a maximum of one year. Candidates should send in their application, together with a detailed outline of their project and their supervisor's recommendation to the Director, German Historical Institute, London WC1A 9LP, to arrive not later than 15 January 1985. (53386)

The position will be on the Research Assistant Grade 1A scale (£7,190 to £11,015, according to experience and with membership of U.S.S.).

Applications, with curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent as soon as possible to Dr. J. H. D. J. Department of Engineering Science, Culham Laboratory, Oxford OX1 3FJ (05354).

Colleges and Institutes of Higher Education



Roehampton Institute

Digby Stuart
Froebel
Southlands
Whitehills

RE-ADVERTISEMENT

The College Governors seek to appoint from 1st April 1985 if possible a suitably qualified communicant member of the Church of England as the

PRINCIPAL of Whitehills College

a Voluntary Church of England College of Higher Education, and one of the four federated Colleges of the Roehampton Institute, offering a wide range of undergraduate and post-graduate courses validated by the University of Surrey. The Principal is required to be resident.

Salary: In the range £16,802-£20,577 p.a. with London Allowance £207.68.

Full details of the post and application forms may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors (Miss Brenda Robinson) at Whitehills College, West Hill, LONDON SW15 3BN (Telephone 01-788 8285). Closing date for applications: 17th Dec. 84. (17176)

DORSET INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION LECTURER II/SENIOR LECTURER IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Applications are invited for the above position which is within the Dorset Institute of Higher Education. The successful applicant will be responsible for the Practical Training Facility established for Open Tech and will be required to play a leading role in the development and running of training courses in Information Technology for the business community. He/she will be required to generate income for the Centre, which is self-funding, through fully costed services.

Applicants should have a strong background in the use of microcomputers and the provision of practical business training in information technology. Qualifications should include a Degree in business and/or computer related subjects. Salary: £7,648 - £14,061.

Further details and applications from: The Director, (tel 01483 81), Dorset Institute of Higher Education, Weymouth Road, Poole, Dorset BH12 5BB. Tel: (0205) 524111 ext. 240. Closing date: 30th November 1984. (17169)

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE STRAWBERRY HILL TWICKENHAM, MIDDLESEX

DEPUTY BURSAR

required as soon as possible after 1st January 1985.

The present post with its emphasis on personal administration is being extended to financial and office management. The salary (under review) which is on the S01 scale £9,587-£10,287, including London weighting, will be re-assessed in the future to take account of any such increased responsibilities.

Further details can be obtained from the Bursary Secretary on 01-892 1001 extension 218. (17204)

CITY OF WAKEFIELD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BRETON HALL (College of Higher Education affiliated to the University of Leeds)

LECTURER IN DANCE & MOVEMENT

£7,548-£14,061
The above lectureship (vacant from 1.1.85) involves the teaching of dance, movement and some drama, mainly on B.A. degree courses.

Application forms and further details (on receipt of a.s.e.) from

The Principal,
Breton Hall College,
West Bretton, Wakefield,
West Yorks WF4 4LG
to be returned by 28th
November 1984. (17178)

Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology Department of Science

LECTURER IN STATISTICS/MATHEMATICS

Required for 1 May 1985. Candidates should possess a good degree with a significant statistical content or other equivalent qualifications. Experience in the application of statistics would be an advantage.

Salary Scale £5,910 - £10,512, starting point depending upon qualifications and experience.

Details and forms, to be returned by 30th November, from: Administrative Assistant, Department of Science, CCAT, Cambridge CB1 1PT. Tel: (03395) 335952. H8 (53395)

Conferences & Seminars

CONTEMPORARY FRENCH LITERATURE: A CONFERENCE will be held at Westfield College, London W15, with Dr. J. H. D. J. as Secretary, North Road, Parkside, Poole BH14 0LS (Tel: 0204 747000), to be returned within two weeks of the date of the advertisement. H84 (53380)

Administration

Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom

Senior Administrative Officer

Applications are invited for a post of senior administrative officer in the secretariat of this Committee. The person appointed will be experienced in collecting, analysing and interpreting financial and statistical data and will be involved in the preparation of policy papers principally, but not exclusively, in this area. He or she will also be concerned with the continuing development of a computerised information system designed to provide quantitative data on aspects of the university system in the UK relevant to the work of the office.

Initial salary according to experience in the administrative scale II (£11,675 to 14,925 p.a.) plus a London Allowance of £1,233 p.a. Superannuation under USS/USDP.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary General of the Committee, 29 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9EZ, to whom applications should be sent not later than 30th November 1984. (17201)

Association of Commonwealth Universities

Applications are invited for the post of:

APPOINTMENTS OFFICER

to be taken up on 1st April 1985, or earlier. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Association's Appointments Service, widely used by overseas universities for the promotion of and appraisal of candidates for their staff vacancies.

Candidates should be graduates, have proven administrative (including committee) experience, preferably in university or other public-sector work, and be capable of writing interview reports fluently and rapidly. They should have some understanding of modern office practice and be capable of working with and supervising an able and experienced team in a busy, small department.

Salary: In range £11,675-£14,925 p.a. plus £1,233 London Allowance. Superannuation under USS. Further particulars from: Personnel Officer, A.C.U., 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, to whom applications should be sent not later than 31 December 1984. (17202)

Scholarships

Oxford University Lincoln College KEITH MURRAY SCHOLARSHIP

The College proposes, if there are suitable candidates (male or female) of sufficient merit, to elect a second Keith Murray Senior Scholarship, open to graduates from any university outside the United Kingdom and the European Community. This Scholarship will be confined to graduate work in the medical, biological and chemical sciences and will be tenable from 1 October, 1985 for 3 years, with the possibility of renewal for a third year. The value of the Scholarship will be £8,000 a year, from which University and College fees and maintenance will be payable.

Further particulars and application forms should be obtained from the Tutor for Graduate Studies, Lincoln College, Oxford OX1 3LD, to whom applications should be sent by 31 December, 1984. H84 (53373)

Colleges of Further Education

Bournemouth & Poole College of Further Education Dorset

COMPUTER SYSTEMS MANAGER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified, forward looking and experienced persons for the above post, to be responsible for the computer system, operation and development of mini and micro-computers in the College and the implementation of applications software in the Curriculum and College Administration.

The post will be on a National Civil Service conditions of service and in the salary range £11,175 - £18,135 at a position relating to previous experience and qualifications.

Further details and applications from: The Principal, Bournemouth & Poole College of Further Education, North Road, Parkside, Poole BH14 0LS (Tel: 0204 747000), to be returned within two weeks of the date of the advertisement. H84 (53382)

ilea Inner London Education Authority

Research and Statistics Branch

DEPUTY DIRECTOR (STATISTICS AND COMPUTING) Salary range: £15,834 - £17,598 (inclusive)

This is a key post responsible to the director - Dr. Stephen Mortimer - for the efficient running of the team of twenty staff including statisticians, computer programmers, information officers and a new group concerned with employment monitoring. Day to day work is varied and will include data analysis and the writing of reports for various Sub-Committees of the Authority, as well as management functions and liaising with other branches such as the Administrative Computing Unit.

First rate technical and managerial competence is required together with a knowledge of, and interest in, education. Applicants should be professionally qualified, experienced and possess the ability to lead a team of colleagues.

Further details and application forms available from Personnel Services Division, Education Dept. Estab. 16 Room 368, The County Hall, London SE1. (Please enclose S.A.E.). The Closing date for completed application forms is 7 December 1984.

This post is suitable for Job-Share.

ILEA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER. (17208)

OXFORD POLYTECHNIC STUDENT SERVICES ACCOMMODATION OFFICER Ref No. 11/05

Accommodation Officer required with particular responsibility for obtaining accommodation for students in approved lodgings. Candidates should be graduates or professionally qualified. Previous relevant experience is desirable.

Salary on Scale 4/5 £8,284-£7,896 (Under review)

Closing date for the above position 30.11.84.

STAFFING OFFICE Ref No. 03/21

A Senior Administrative Assistant is required to assist with a wide range of duties related to staff employment (particularly teaching staff). Previous experience desirable (preferably in higher education or a local authority).

Salary Scale 5 £7,191-£7,896 (Under review)

Closing date for the above position 28.11.84.

Further details and application forms are available from the Staffing Office, Oxford Polytechnic, Glynn Lane, Headington, OXFORD OX3 9PF. Tel: Oxford (0865) 64777 Ext. 364

Overseas

University of California Berkeley

FIELD OF PHILOSOPHY

to begin Fall 1985. Duties include: graduate instruction in the law school's jurisprudence and Social Policy Program, and undergraduate teaching in a Legal Studies Program. Junior and senior scholars are welcome to apply.

Send applications with c.v. and recommendations to: Professor Sheldon Messing, School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Applicants must possess either an outstanding record of scholarly accomplishment or exceptional promise of such accomplishment. Deadline for receipt of applications is December 31, 1984.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. H13 (53355)

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LATER THAN
10AM MONDAY
PRECEDING
PUBLICATION

Overseas continued

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

Lecturer - History Education

Applications are invited for the above post from 1 July 1985 or as soon as possible thereafter. The successful applicant will be required to teach both primary and secondary students in the method of teaching history and also graduate students in curriculum studies, with special reference to history. A personal interest in classroom research and a willingness to supervise student research projects and teaching practice are essential.

Salary scale: R12 657 x 780 - R16 567 x 836 - R22 173 per annum, plus a 12% pensionable allowance per month, an annual bonus of nearly one month's salary and attractive staff benefits. Salary reviews are expected shortly.

Applications should include a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees and be sent to the Registrar (Appointments Office), University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7700, by 31 December 1984. Please quote reference ED/41010 on the application.

Further information may be obtained from the Registrar or the Secretary, SA Universities Office, Chichester House, 278 High Holborn, London WC1V 7HE.

The University's policy is not to discriminate on the grounds of sex, race or religion. Further information on the implementation of this policy is obtainable on request.

Assistant Professor

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management seeks Assistant Professor or untenured Associate Professor of labor market, employment policy, and human resource management to undergraduate and graduate students. Must have demonstrated ability to conduct research in design and evaluation of above areas, as well as interest in international or comparative labor market. Requires Ph.D. in Economics or related field.

Send curriculum vitae, the names of three referees, and a sample of completed papers to: Professor Thomas A. Kochan, MIT Sloan School of Management, E52-586, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139

MIT is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. (17171)

Princeton University DAVID MAGIE CHAIR OF GREEK AND ROMAN HISTORY

The Department of Classics at Princeton University is seeking to make an appointment to a newly endowed David Magie Professorship of Greek and Roman History. The appointee will be a senior scholar of high distinction in the field of ancient history and will be expected to teach and supervise graduate students in the department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the department's work in the field of ancient history and will be expected to contribute to the department's research and teaching in the field of ancient history.

Letters of application, detailing teaching interests and research, should be sent to the Department of Classics, Princeton University, 307 GFD, Princeton, NJ 08542 U.S.A. by 1 January 1985. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise graduate students in the department. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the department's research and teaching in the field of ancient history.

General Vacancies

Department of Education and Science HM INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS

Applications are invited from men and women, preferably aged between 35 and 45, for appointment in England as HM Inspectors. HMI inspect educational institutions as part of both general and specialist assignments and provide advice to the Department and throughout the education system.

Current vacancies are for specialists in:

FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Adult and Continuing Education: Ref. 1/85
Candidates should have substantial qualifications and teaching experience in one or more of the following fields of adult education:
responsible body adult education;
LEA general and community adult education;
vocational/professional and general adult training and retraining.
Experience of distance learning, part-time and short course techniques and related methods will be an advantage.

Agriculture and Horticulture: ref. 2/85
Candidates must have considerable experience and responsibility in this specialist area and have an active interest in its applications. Appropriate academic qualifications, teaching and industrial/professional experience are essential.

Art and Design: Ref. 3/85
Candidates should have good specialist qualifications and experience of teaching fine art, or photography, or film and television studies, or design, or graphics, in further and higher education. Experience is sought in the teaching of these subjects in single or combined subject degrees, DATEC, and in the application of these subjects to the education of teachers and other professions.

Catering and Food: Ref. 4/85
Candidates must have considerable experience and responsibility in this specialist area and have an active interest in its applications. Appropriate academic qualifications, teaching and industrial/professional experience are essential.

Computing Education: Ref. 5/85
Candidates should have substantial teaching experience in this field. They should hold a senior position in further and higher education and have a broad and active interest in computer education. Particular interest and experience in an area of computer application, e.g. information technology, or in the field of mathematical sciences, would be an advantage.

Engineering: Ref. 6/85
Candidates should have substantial experience of teaching either electrical, electronic or mechanical engineering in Higher Diplomas and at degree level. They should also have relevant experience in industry.

Geology: Ref. 7/85
Candidates should be qualified in geology and preferably have post graduate experience in the subject and its related disciplines. Experience in the teaching of geology to GCE A level and in the teaching of these subjects to degree and equivalent levels is essential. Experience in employment and in the applications of geology to technology would be an advantage.

Starting salary for all posts is within the range £16,200 - £21,800. Relocation expenses of up to £5,000 may be payable.

Application forms (to be returned as soon as possible and not later than 7 December 1984) and further information may be obtained from Mr E.D. Foster, Department of Education and Science, Room 16/77, Elizabeth House, 30, York Road, London SE1 7PH, telephone 01-828 9222, extensions 2468, 2467 or 2785. Please quote the appropriate reference.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer. (17185)

The Times Higher Education Supplement

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	22	Philosophy
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	15	Maths and Physics (I)
	22	Social Policy
	29	English
APRIL	12	Psychology (I)
	12	Law
	26	Computer Studies (I)
MAY	3	Sociology (I)
	10	Chemistry
	17	American Studies
	24	Economics (I)
	31	Biological Sciences (I)
JUNE	7	Education (I)
	14	Engineering
	4	Environmental Sciences (II)
OCTOBER	11	History (II)
	18	Maths and Physics (II)
NOVEMBER	1	Psychology (II)
	8	Economics (II)
	15	Biological Sciences (II)
	22	Sociology (II)
	29	Computer Studies (II)
DECEMBER	6	Education (II)

Your direct line to recruitment advertising for Higher Education.

Contact:
Bernadette Alexander.